


ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE

CONFRONTING THE FOOD CRISIS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2009
PENANG, MALAYSIA

EMPOWERING PEOPLE FOR CHANGE

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PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK
ASIA & THE PACIFIC

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ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON

CONFRONTING THE FOOD CRISIS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

September 27-29, 2009

Penang, Malaysia

PROCEEDINGS

Organiser:

Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific

www.panap.net

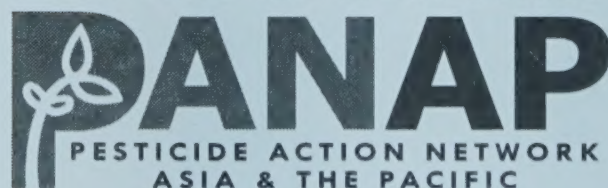
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ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON CONFRONTING THE FOOD CRISIS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

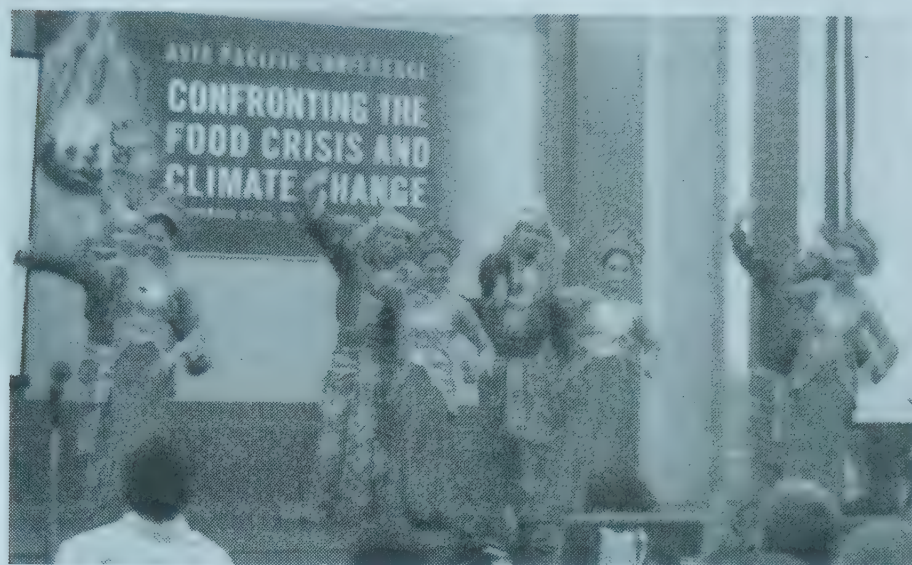
September 27-29, 2009
Penang, Malaysia

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

1.1 Opening Session

1.1.1 Opening Ceremony

The conference was opened with a traditional Malay dance by Malaysian performers.

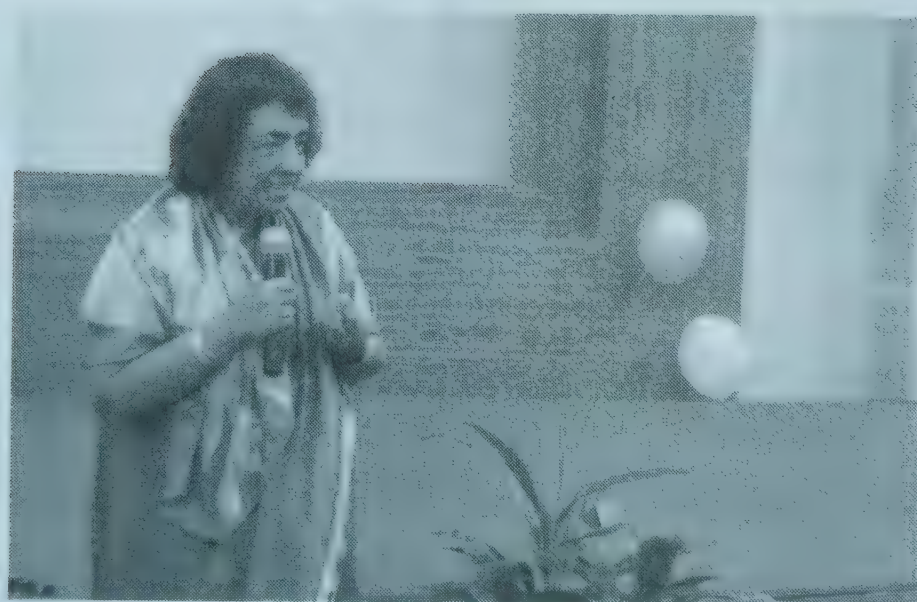


Traditional Malay dance performance

1.1.2 Welcoming Address

Dr. Irene Fernandez

Chairperson, Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific



Dr. Irene Fernandez of Tenaganita giving the first speech

Irene expressed a warm welcome and greetings of solidarity to all participants. She said that we are all one in the struggle against the food crisis and the global economic recession. PAN AP has been warning that

this might happen because of living unsustainably. Now, the reality is hitting us and people are being inched out. For example, in places where three generations have lived, large numbers of fisherfolk are struggling to keep their homes. She said that the challenge for new governments is how to live sustainably.

Irene hoped that at this conference, we would have a fruitful discussion on how we can forward the struggle to ensure that there is food for ourselves and for the generations to come.

1.1.3 Opening Address

Yang Berhormat Pee Boon Poh

*Penang State EXCO for Health, Welfare, Caring Society
and the Environment*



*Penang State Exco
for Health, Welfare,
Caring Society and
the Environment Mr.
Pee Boon Poh sharing
his knowledge to the
audience about the
impact of climate change,
pesticide and food issues.*

Mr. Poh acknowledged Irene and Saro, the participants of the conference, and members of the press present. He welcomed everyone to Penang and on behalf of Chief Minister YAB Tuan Lim Guan Eng, congratulated PAN AP for holding this timely and relevant conference.

He said that global temperatures have risen and are projected to rise even faster in the years to come, producing damaging effects on the environment, health, and culture. He said that there have already been effects and that we will likely face even more floods, crises, and damage to our environment. He agreed with Irene that a lot of stakeholders have

been sidelined, that people talk about power, but not about the power of the people.



From left: Dato Dr. Anwar Fazal (Consumer International), Ms. Sarojeni V. Rengam (PAN AP), Penang State Exco Member Mr. Pee Boon Poh and Dr. Irene Fernandez (Tenaganita)

Mr. Poh shared about how the Penang State Government was trying to create awareness on emissions and global warming, and how they were working to get past the barriers of the political system in Penang. He said that Penang, which was once called the “Pearl of the Orient”, does not shine anymore. He shared the state government’s plans to make it shine again. This included a tree planting project to plant 70,000 trees in 2009. They were also planning to adopt a green building index in Penang starting in October to help Penang become a global city. The state government was also urging industries to undertake sustainable production, water recycling, and good public transit and eco-town development in Penang.

Mr. Poh said that the issue of pesticides brought back memories of Bhopal, India, where innocent people died and serious injuries and sicknesses are still felt today. He bewailed the fact that the courts did not listen to the cries of farmers. He related the pleasures of his childhood when living in the ‘kampung’ (village); how he enjoyed bathing in rivers, catching catfish, and collecting shellfish. He lamented that his children did not have this opportunity.

He said that in 1992, Malaysia brought in one million foreign workers to industrialise the country. He questioned the expense with which Malaysia built factories and international business facilities—shortening the time required to produce food, using hormones, and seeing illnesses

that have never been seen before. He urged everyone to help him as a legislator who was determined to make a commitment to bring about changes in society. Finally, Mr. Poh declared the conference open.

1.1.4 Context and Objectives of the Conference

Sarojeni Rengam

Executive Director, PAN AP



Sarojeni V. Rengam shares her concern about the food crisis and climate change, and its impact on families and communities.

Saro introduced the participants from 91 organisations from 22 countries. She explained that there would have been more participants from the Philippines, but a major typhoon had struck wherein one month's amount of rainfall fell in just six hours.

Saro gave a quick introduction on the context of the food crisis and climate change. Last year was the food crisis; which has been exacerbated by climate change. Families and communities are being affected by climate change and this is something that we are all going to face in the coming decades. There are big changes in terms of agriculture and food production systems, and this is because the whole system, including the financial system, is having problems. She said that the effects of the collapse of commodity markets, stock market failures, and unemployment are reverberating in all our countries. These are all representative of the booms and busts of the capitalist system. She gave the example of the 1997 economic crisis which resulted in many suicides and much suffering. She said that the crisis was global in nature and that

the periods of boom and bust are becoming closer and shorter.

Saro explained further that the food crisis had come about because of commodity speculation, exacerbated by the push for agrofuels especially the expansion of jatropha and oil palm plantations in Asia. Agrofuels are being promoted as a solution to the energy crisis, but it is going to contribute further to the crisis. The expansion of industrial agriculture also demands fossil fuels and unsustainable food production. All of this is also contributing to the climate crisis, Saro said.

She said that a big fight is upcoming in the COP 15 and Bangkok UNFCCC meeting. There will be negotiations on emissions trading, but clearly there is a historical debt between developed and developing nations. The discussions surrounding payment are going on, thus the continuation of “business as usual” may result from emissions trading. The impact is devastating to the poor and the weak. Rural populations will be the most vulnerable: women, peasants, agricultural workers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, and indigenous peoples. Intensification of losses, spiraling food prices, costs of basic services, hunger, and impoverishment will ensue. There is a need to collectively strategise to debunk the myths, dismantle the institutions responsible, and strengthen the calls of peasants, agricultural workers, rural women, and pastoralists who have been resisting and demanding changes. So there is a need to strengthen the movements. It is also a time to strengthen ourselves to create better conditions to address the food crisis, climate change, and other crises resulting from monopoly capitalism, according to Saro. She said that the conference aimed to come up with a unity statement that will provide inspiration for future endeavours.

1.2 Keynote Address: Experience of Peasants, Agricultural Workers, and Livestock Keepers

Sarath Fernando

*Movement for National Land and Agriculture Reform
(MONLAR) - Sri Lanka*

Sarath expressed gratitude at being present at an important conference during a crucial moment in history. He agreed that the issue was of

“climate destruction” rather than of “climate change.” He said that now is the time to seriously question the concepts of development and growth, exploitation, and the end of nature.



“We have to restore the ability of the earth to survive,” said Sarath Fernando of MONLAR.

He said that the experiences of small farmers, the excluded and discarded people of society and the world, show how a positive agenda for the rest of the world can be created. He explained that MONLAR emerged from the civil wars in Sri Lanka, advanced from the Peasant Information Network, and is now the product of 15 years of work with farmers. Now, things are beginning to change and this brings hope to a lot of people.

Sarath shared that in Sri Lanka, in spite of 50 to 60 years of unsustainable agriculture, food can still be gathered from neighbours because of the process in which people planted food in plots of land so food could be available to all. Without money for fertiliser, pesticides, and herbicides, they had to find ways of doing without, which led to a type of agriculture that was free of external inputs. He said that this is called ecological agriculture, which is becoming a movement and a definite trend that is growing in Asia. It is a needed process to restore nature’s ability to regenerate itself. “Birth, growth, decay, and regrowth” has to be the guiding principle of our survival, said Sarath. The experience of “small people”, those who are compelled to survive without money, has shown the way to produce things without relying on external capital.

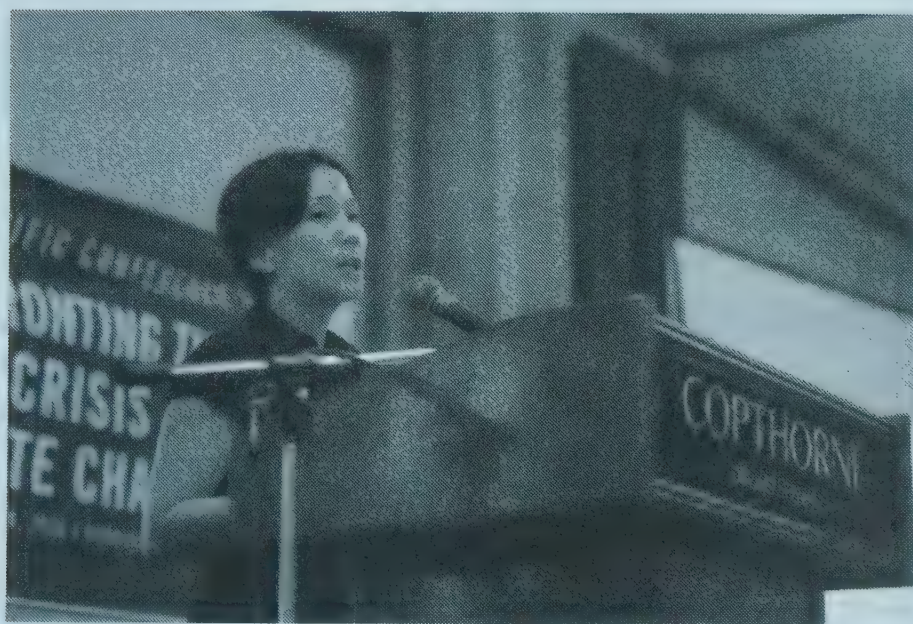
In a survey that was done in Sri Lanka in 2008, it was found that 538 organisations gathered information on ecological agriculture. Now, the government is considering supporting ecological growing plots for all families because it cannot support the costs of inputs. Sarath said that his message to the conference is to give proper direction, to say that “we have to restore the ability of the earth to survive,” and that this can become a huge movement in the world. He believed that Sri Lanka can become a model country because while it is small, it has tremendous blessings from nature, and those who are being excluded have the right to take ownership and help keep the world alive.

1.3 Panel Discussion 1: Understanding the Threats and Challenges of the Food Crisis

1.3.1 Climate Change and Its Impact on Food and Agriculture

Lim Li Ching

Third World Network - Malaysia



Lim Li Ching said the effects of climate change include heat waves leading to reduced yields; heavy precipitation linked to crop damage, soil erosion, and waterlogging; drought resulting in land degradation; salinisation of water bodies; and possible increase in pest and disease infestations

Lim presented the results of the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report of 2007 which says that global warming by end of the 21st century will be worse than expected. There is a projected rise of 1.8 to 4°C in temperature. The projected sea level rise by the end of the 21st century ranges from 18 to 59 centimetres. She said that climate change is very real, and its impacts are being felt around the world. Even small changes have

very catastrophic effects on sea level, weather events, and food and agriculture production.

She described “climate justice” as the completely unjust situation wherein 20 per cent of the world’s richest populations are responsible for over 60 per cent of current emissions (if past contributions are taken into account, this rises to 80 per cent). The US is the biggest polluter, accounting for more than 30 per cent of emissions, which is more than the emissions 136 developing countries combined. Meanwhile, billions of the world’s poorest will be impacted most by climate change, meaning that those who are least responsible for the problem are paying the price. The developed countries, in the meantime, are failing to meet targets for emissions reduction. The US has refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

Lim then spoke of the impacts of climate change on agriculture. She said that freshwater availability in Central, South, East and South-East Asia is projected to decrease because of climate change, and could adversely affect more than a billion people by 2050. She also said that the effects of climate change include heat waves leading to reduced yields; heavy precipitation linked to crop damage, soil erosion, and waterlogging; drought resulting in land degradation; salinisation of water bodies; and possible increase in pest and disease infestations.

Lim said that the dominant model of industrial agriculture has contributed to climate change itself. Agriculture amounts for 10 to 12 per



Rice seeds; traditional varieties from Malaysia, Philippines and South Asia

cent of global GHG emissions; including indirect contributions from land conversion, fertiliser production and distribution and farm operations, this increases to 17 to 32 per cent. She discussed the findings of the 2008 International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), which declared that “business-as-usual is no longer an option.” The findings of the IAASTD show that the future of agriculture lies in biodiverse, ecologically-based agriculture.

She then discussed how ecological agriculture is the key to climate change adaptation. For instance, increased soil fertility and increased organic matter reduces the negative effects of droughts and floods, while increasing productivity. She also presented studies that showed that ecological agriculture is productive and comparable to conventional yields. Lim emphasised the need to mainstream ecological agriculture; and that mainstreaming the movement needs a systematic redirection in investment, funding, research, training and policy focus.

Lim then talked about climate justice and how developing countries need a fair deal at global conferences such as COP 15. She said that a fair global deal is based on equity and principles of burden-sharing, and common but differentiated responsibilities between the North and the South. She emphasised that this differentiated approach is justified, as developed countries bear the historical responsibility for climate change. She said that there is a current campaign to ‘repay the climate debt’ that is calling on developed countries to repay developing countries.

1.3.2 Ethical Consumption

Dr. Vokyung Song

Consumers Korea- South Korea

Dr. Song informed everyone that Consumers Korea recently published a book on consumers’ actions. She said that she is very proud to be a part of this conference and the movement for responsible and ethical consumption.

She said that ethics and responsible behavior means working with concern for others and taking into account the interests of others. She

described the ethical consumer as one who poses minimal harm to or does not exploit humans, animals and the natural environment. An ethical consumer does not cause pain, treat people as a means to an end, or ignore the interests of others.



Dr Vokyung Song described the ethical consumer as one who poses minimal harm to or does not exploit humans, animals and the natural environment.

Dr. Song then raised the following questions: If we created the problems, how can we create the solutions? Who will support the solutions and create a support system? She suggested working through linkages between ourselves and others. Communication will multiply this effect, she said.

She also said that ethical consumerism can be achieved through positive buying and negative purchasing. This means support for organic agriculture, fair trade, local and independent businesses, recycling, and watching food miles.

1.3.3 The Food Crisis, Globalisation and the Financial Crisis

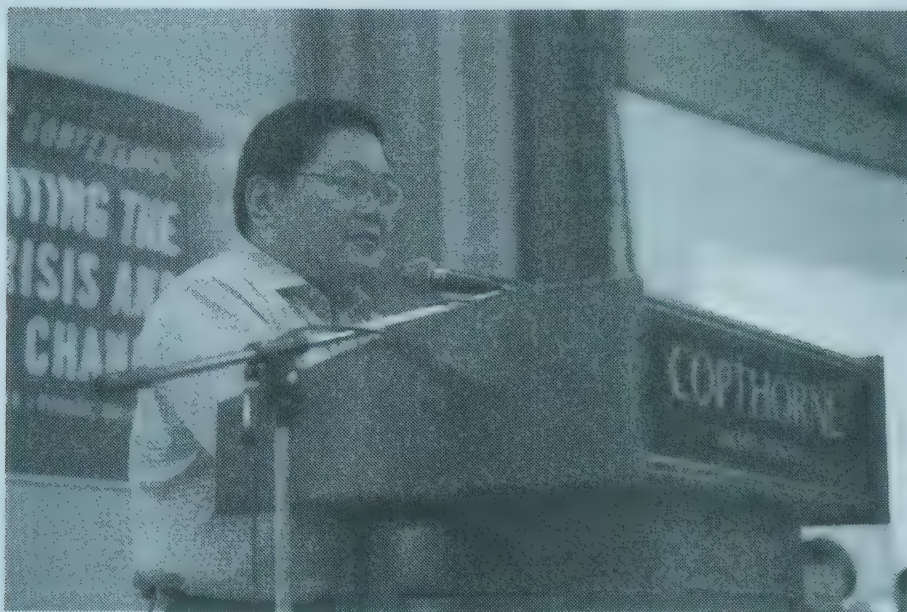
Antonio Tujan Jr.

Asia Pacific Research Network- Philippines

Tony said that the past five years have seen multiple crises, including the financial crisis that caused the closure of banks and many financial institutions. This recession is an intensification of cyclical forms of recession due to overproduction that also takes the form of the

permanent crises in our Third World economies. Tony said that the food crisis is a myth. It is an artificial shortage that was created through the destruction of food production through neo-liberal reforms in the Third World. This created increased sensitivity to food supplies in our countries. All of these crises—energy, food, financial—are fundamentally linked to imperialist globalisation, Tony said.

He said that globalisation is not about prosperity or making the world one global village. Instead, it is merely a mechanism to manage crises that produce more crises. Over-production necessitates neo-liberalisation or the creation of more markets, including the virtual or fake markets of finance. The technological revolution of past decades was used to expand production, reduce costs, expand markets for surplus and fictitious capital, and distort markets for energy and food products.



Antonio Tujan Jr. emphasised that globalisation is not about prosperity or making the world one global village. Instead, it is merely a mechanism to manage crises that produce more crises.

He said that the food crisis and the crash of agriculture is the most worrisome aspect of imperialist globalisation. It has resulted in the loss of people's food sovereignty. It has resulted in the increased role of agri-business and agro-chemical corporations that develop anti-nature technologies (such as GMOs and nanotechnology), which in turn result in control of the supply chain with an impact of market domination over production.

The upcoming Food Summit in Rome from November 16 to 18 is supposed to address this food crisis, said Tony. Sadly, there is an aggressive push by corporations and imperialist forces to resurrect the Green Revolution

on a grand scale, starting with Africa. The FAO and other civil society organisations are trying to defend the status quo. He emphasised that if we do not plan well our offensives and strengthen our ranks, the likes of the Gates Foundation, the bilateral OECD donors, and the Alliance for the Green Revolution in Africa will win in their effort to pour billions of dollars into Africa, which is the new frontier for corporate agriculture in the world. Tony said that the food summit is an important struggle to push forward food sovereignty.

He added that climate change is an important issue beyond the natural cycle. The fundamental roots of climate change lie not simply in capitalism but in monopoly capitalism. Development was pushed to excessive and unsustainable proportions because of the inexorable process of capitalist accumulation or the overall push for profits. This must be addressed with ethical consumer movements, Tony said. Climate change is a wake-up call against capitalism and imperialism. It's not just about reducing carbon emissions, not just about adaptation or mitigation. In fact, talking about adaptation or mitigation is only perpetuating the control of fossil fuel-based industries that monopoly capitalists built.

Tony underscored the need for a lifestyle change and economy change. He also said that we need a People's Protocol that calls for national liberation and social revolution against the imbalance and injustice in nature and society, and for social change while at the same time addressing the day-to-day impacts of climate change. Tony hoped that the participants would be able to map out over the next few days strategies to address the impacts of climate change, and the national adaptation strategies of governments that merely perpetuate globalisation.



*Asia Pacific Conference:
Confronting the Food
Crisis and Climate Change
official banner*

1.4 Open Forum

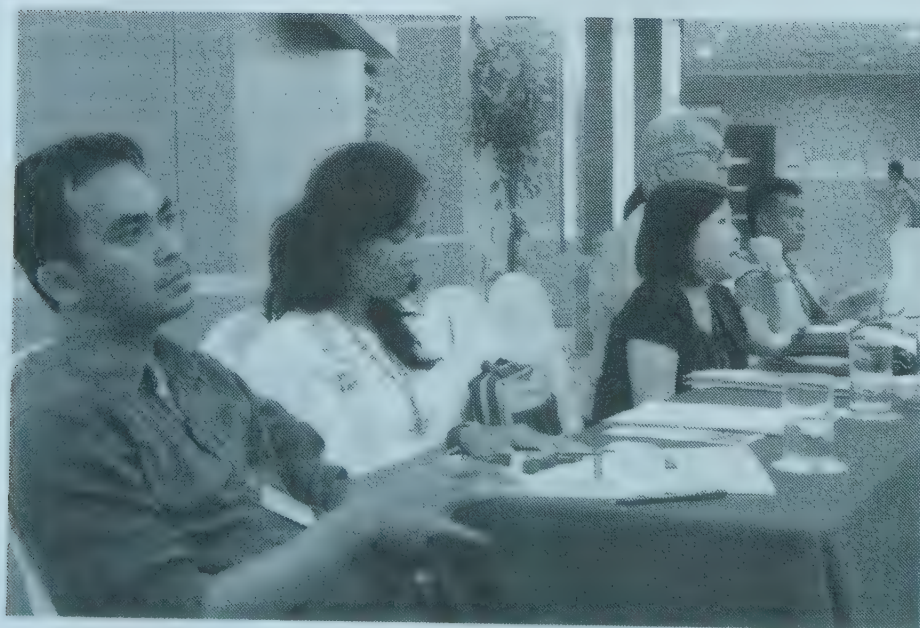
A participant from NOAH-Denmark asked Lim to identify some institutions and support organisations that can help indigenous communities to document indigenous knowledge.

Lim said that lot of indigenous knowledge and projects that NGOs have carried out do not come out in peer-reviewed literature and have been ignored by researchers. The IAASTD was unique because it took these accounts of indigenous knowledge into their scientific report. There is a wealth of knowledge out there, and the exchange needs to be continued.

As for institutions in Asia, Lim said that there are some pioneers in the FAO in Rome who are trying to put up a system for organic agriculture research. She underscored the need for networking, linkages and communications, and research and documentation.

A Swedbio representative asked Lim if there were any examples or experiences of ecological agriculture from fisherfolk.

Lim said that the IAASTD report has some information on this although she admitted that work in that area is scantier. Agriculture tends to focus on crops and land, but it is important to also take into account fisheries and fisherfolk who will be affected by sea level changes, she said.



Participants from different organisations and interests focus closely over the issues that was brought up during the open forum session

Dr. Song said that she is still very interested in organic food and local food. She shared that an ethical consumers report from the UK found that people eat organic food because of the taste, its lack of pesticides, and health concerns. She said that it is the task of consumer organisations to recommend how the change can be made. She suggested to keep in mind the word CASES (which stands for Critical Awareness, Social responsibility, Ecological responsibility, and Solidarity).

Tony said that Asian studies and organisations such as MASIPAG and SIBAT in the Philippines have documented ecological agriculture practices. On the question of fisheries, he said that there are two aspects. The first aspect is aquaculture or corporate intensive vs. sustainable extensive aquaculture. The second aspect is coastal management and how local fishing communities are able to sustainably manage fisheries. There are studies on these in the Philippines and in Thailand, he said.

1.5 Parallel Workshops 1: Sharing of Impacts and Responses from Sectors

1.5.1 Workshop 1: Peasants and Livestock Keepers *Organised by the Asian Peasants Coalition*



Active participation of participants in the discussion during the workshop

The objectives of this workshop were to: a) Provide a platform where people's voices can be heard on the impact of climate change crises confronting peasants and livestock keepers at the local level; b) Understand and identify the dimensions and linkages of the problems

at the local, national, and international levels; c) Identify key problem areas and responses to food and climate change crises at the local and national levels; d) Identify key issues for the World Food Summit on Food Security and the UN Conference on Climate Change and their relevance to food producers.

There was an introduction; discussion on problems, linkages, and responses; and formulation of demands and recommendations.

1.5.2 Workshop 2: Agricultural Workers *Organised by the Coalition of Agricultural Workers International*



*Exchange of ideas,
opinions and suggestions
among participants*

The objectives of the workshop were to: a) Share experiences on how the food crisis and climate change impact the lives of agricultural workers; b) Deepen the understanding on how the neo-globalisation of agriculture aggravates the food crisis and climate change; c) Formulate collective strategies and joint actions that will promote farm workers' empowerment and enhance the involvement of grassroots communities and the people in efforts to address the food crisis and climate change; d) Identify key issues for the World Food Summit on Food Security and the UN Conference on Climate Change and their relevance to agricultural workers.

There was a workshop orientation; sharing of experiences on the food crisis and climate change; identifying of common concerns and prioritising

of issues; planning and strategising for collective actions and campaigns; and the formulation of plans of action and recommendations.

1.5.3 Workshop 3: Women

Organised by the Asian Rural Women's Coalition



A participant being interviewed by a PAN AP staff

The objectives of the workshop were to: a) Identify key issues and barriers faced by women and children in Asia in the context of the food crisis and climate change; b) Provide a space to share experiences, perceptions, and responses of women and children in agriculture with the current food crisis and climate change; c) Identify key issues on the World Food Summit on Food Security and the UN Conference on Climate Change and its relevance to rural women.

There was an introduction contextualising the food crisis and climate change as they impact women and children, in the context of gender injustice in agriculture. Case studies were presented on peasant women (Beej Bachao Andolan and Association for Rural Planning and Action, India) and on tsunami-affected areas (P. Logeswary, Women's Solidarity Forum, Sri Lanka). There was group discussion that clarified issues and enabled the group to come up with unified plan of action and a synthesis.

1.5.4 Workshop 4: Indigenous Peoples

*Organised by the Cordillera People's Alliance and
EED Philippine Task Force on Indigenous Peoples' Rights*

The objectives of the workshop were to: a) Provide indigenous participants a venue for sharing and discussing impacts and implications

of the food crisis and climate change based on experiences or studies at the local or national level; b) Provide a platform for sharing IPs' struggles and responses to the crises as well as solutions based on knowledge systems and practices; c) Level off on updates on the UNFCCC and the World Summit on Food Security as they affect IPs; d) Explore and discuss the common agenda and areas of collective action among IPs at the regional level.



Discussions in progress

There was an introduction, updates on the UNFCCC and IP responses at the international level, and an open forum. There was a sharing of experiences on the impacts of the food crisis and climate change on IPs and IPs responses at the local and national level. Finally, there was a discussion of the recommendations of IPs for a common agenda and actions at the regional level.

1.5.5 Workshop 5: Fisherfolk

Organised by the World Forum of Fisher People

The objectives of the workshop were to: a) Identify key issues faced by small-scale, artisanal fishers, fish workers and their families in Asia in the context of the food crisis and climate change; b) Share experiences of participants, find common issues, and identify collective action; and c) Identify key issues for the World Food Summit on Food Security and UN Conference on Climate Change and their relevance to small food producers.

There was an introduction to the workshop. Herman Kumara of the National Fisheries Solidarity Movement, Sri Lanka presented on the topic of confronting the food crisis and climate change in the fisheries sector while a representative of Pamalakaya-Philippines presented on how the selling out of fishing villages and marine resources worsen the impacts of climate change and food crisis in the region. There was a group discussion, a period for clarifications, and consolidation of the workshop outputs.

1.5.6 Workshop 6: Consumers

Organised by Consumers International and Consumers Korea

The objectives of the workshop were to: a) Deepen understanding on the role of the consumer movement in combating climate change; b) Provide a platform for the consumer movement, practitioners of ecological agriculture, and organisations of small farmers to strengthen networking and mutual support; and c) Identify key issues for the World Food Summit on Food Security and the UN Conference on Climate Change and their relevance to the consumer movement.

Kim Jai Ok provided an introduction of CI and climate change, and relevant ISO concept papers. Indrani Thuraisingham presented on consumers' perspectives on climate change while Dr. Vokyung Song presented the results of a climate change survey. The group then held an open forum.



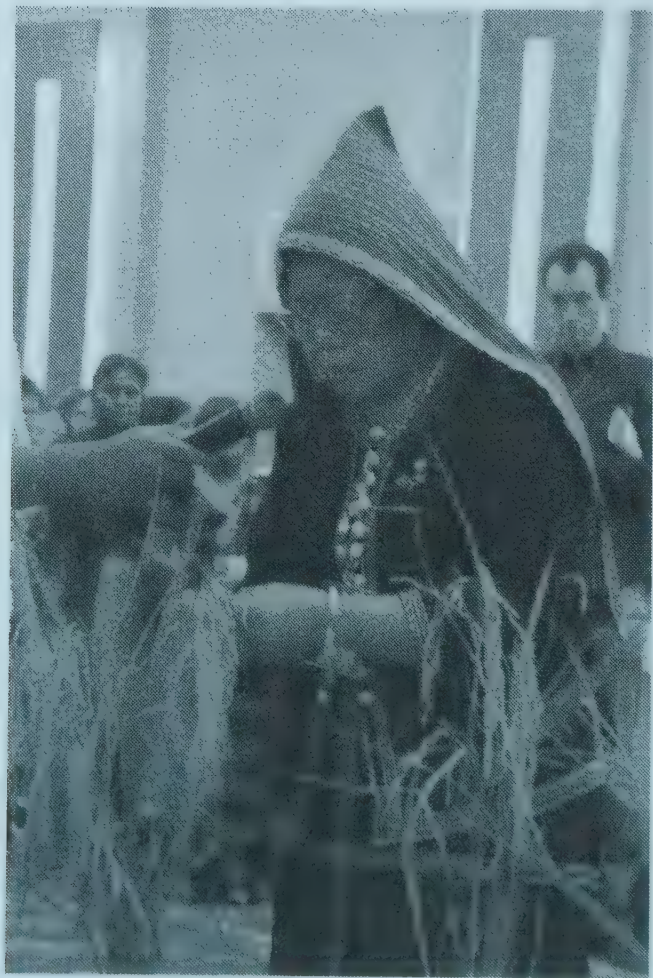
Introduction of Consumers International and Climate Change by Kim Jai Ok

1.6 Year of Rice Action Celebration of Biodiversity Evening

Welcoming remarks and YORA calls were made by Jayakumar of Thanal. A rice ritual by an indigenous elder from East Malaysia was performed to open the YORA Hall of Biodiversity showcasing traditional rice and other local biodiversity products from Asia. This was followed by a symbolic seed exchange between sub-regions and a “Rice for Life Dinner” for all participants.



Showcase of traditional rice and other local biodiversity products from Asia



Indigenous elder performing the rice ritual

DAY 2: SEPTEMBER 28, 2009

Theme:
***Streams of Struggles: People's
Movements, Resistance, and
Alternatives***

2.1 Reporting on Parallel Workshops 1

2.1.1 Consolidated Report on the Workshop on Rural Women

The workshop group shared that during the workshop, P. Logeswary of Sri Lanka discussed the problems that confronted women and children after the tsunami that hit the country in 2004. It was found that single women and children in shelters faced abuse and other insecurities, following the general trend that women and children are the most vulnerable under a patriarchal social system and in situations of conflict and disaster.

The group shared the common problems in different countries with regard to the government's response to the problem of climate change and the food crisis in relation to women. Several common points from the members of the group emerged: 1) The government does not highlight gender sensitivity in their policy and strategies; 2) The government's only response is the public distribution system. This system is further limited to serving only those people whom the government defines to be below the official poverty line; 3) The government is unable to deal with the land issues; and 4) The government is unable to respond to the survivors.

The group outlined the impacts of the food crisis and climate change, specifically on women. It said that climate change reduced biodiversity, while the food crisis caused the loss of food security and livelihood. The transferring of national resources to the corporate sector and the market economy has crippled the government's ability to deal with the food crisis. There is also a general lack of information and education on the impacts of both crises. Meanwhile, natural disasters resulting from climate change create displacement. Women and children refugees are more vulnerable to violence, sexual abuse, and harassment. There are also socio-cultural impacts of the crises, such as the loss of songs during harvests.

The group said that the role of NGOs and mass organisations are vital in addressing these issues, which are political in nature or which encompasses ethnicity, gender, class, religion, age, and caste. The

workshop showed that there are many similar stories from several countries in terms of the impacts of the food crisis and climate change on women and children. The group agreed that governments have to be concerned about the women and children, specifically while coming up with strategies on climate change.

2.1.2 Consolidated Report on the Workshop on Indigenous Peoples

The workshop group shared what the members of the workshop agreed to be the impacts of the food crisis and climate change on indigenous peoples. It was agreed upon that farmers suffer from unpredictable weather. Unlike 30 years ago when farmers could confidently plan for the planting and harvesting seasons, now they had to face the possibility of crop damage and hunger. Indigenous people are veering away from agriculture and moving towards the cash economy in which they face poverty, for they do not have money to plant crops that require a lot of inputs. In practising corporate agriculture, they become destroyers of nature as well. It was also pointed out that IPs are becoming individualists because of the cash economy. Because they are not united anymore, they cannot easily solve their problems, and they become weak in spirit. Furthermore, members of the younger generation are leaving agriculture. The value of agriculture is unappreciated since planting requires a lot of money and farmers are always in debt.



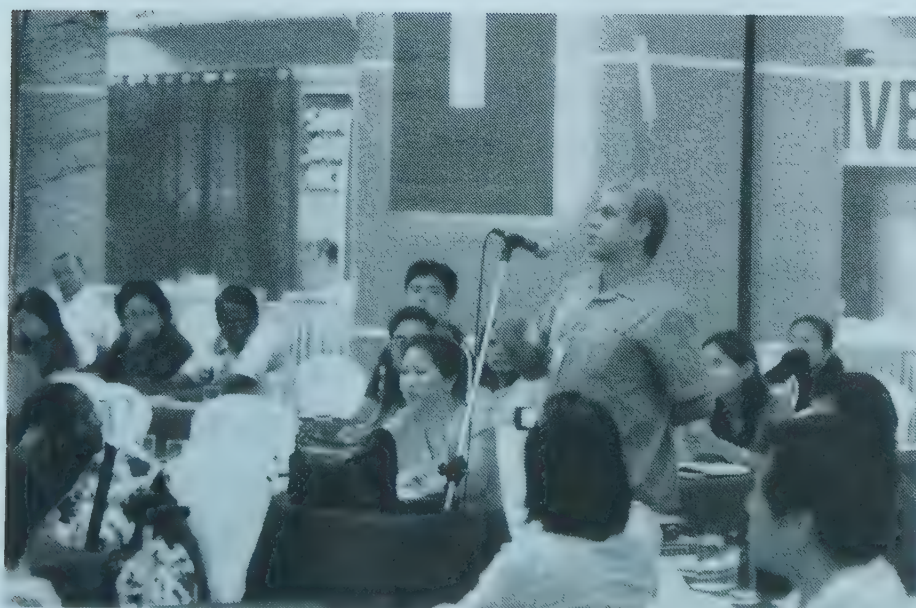
*Indigenous people's
representatives from
Sarawak (East Malaysia)*

The group recommended that the people must struggle in order to have control over land and agricultural practices. It said that land must be brought back to the people and that the indigenous way of life, where sustainable, and traditional knowledge and practices must be revived. It recommended that knowledge on ecologically sound agricultural practices be pushed and popularised. It admitted that organic farming is not a fast process but experiences from various countries show that there is a guarantee for success. Finally, the group recommended the documentation of community maps of indigenous peoples' lands. Although work on this must be intensified, ownership of the information should stay with the community.

2.1.3 Consolidated Report on the Workshop on Agricultural Workers

The workshop group agreed that agricultural workers have specific needs. However, in some countries, the distinction between farmers and agricultural workers are less strong. For example, in Malaysia and Philippines, agricultural workers are a distinct category, while the distinction is lesser in China and India.

Common in all countries is land conversion from food crops to cash crops that rely heavily on pesticides and agro-chemicals, thus decreasing the land for food production. Farmers are also forced to sell their lands because of high costs of production and low profits from agriculture.



*Participants presenting
the outputs from the
workshop*

Governments also dictate the conversion of land to palm oil or agrofuel plantations. Farmers thus lose their lands or the power to decide on what crops to plant. As a result, they become agricultural workers or contractual workers in their own land, with companies dictating what crops to plant. For instance, in India and the Philippines, contract farming of export crops like sugar cane and jatropha is widespread. This pattern of land use conversion is exacerbating climate change, according to the group.

It was also agreed that climate change has resulted in a change in crop cycles and the ecological environment. Farmers had to change their planting cycles and depend more on agro-chemicals to grow crops and control plant diseases and pests (e.g. the outbreak of plant hoppers in Yunnan Province in China). Erratic rainfall, hotter temperatures and shifting seasons also destroy crops and biodiversity. For instance, Cambodia farmers used to grow deepwater rice, but had to convert to dry season rice due to drought. Dry season rice needs more chemical pesticides and fertilisers. In northern Thailand, drought has resulted in the loss of income for the farmers and out-migration. Mexican plantation workers in the US experience the same situation. Due to drought in Sri Lanka, farmers could not cultivate for two seasons.

Other issues discussed by the group were the plight of Filipino and Indonesian migrant farm workers. These farm workers toil in virtual slavery—their wages are withheld, their status is not permanent, and they cannot assert their rights for fear of losing their jobs.

The group then listed out their demands to be presented to governments at the Food Summit. These are: 1) Conduct research on the existing impacts of climate change and how livelihoods are currently being damaged; 2) Devote resources to related studies on the root causes of the farming crisis in Asia and how it affects different countries; and 3) Promote biodiversity-based ecological agriculture. The last has the following objectives: a) reduce greenhouse gas emission (methane, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide from agriculture; b) reduce pesticide and fertiliser use; c) increase income sources and food from diversified cropping; and d) promote sustainable development of local communities and protect the environment.

The group also proposed an action plan for NGOs. They proposed to: 1) Document the concrete impacts of climate change in the communities; document local adaptation strategies and submit them to governments; and monitor government funding of adaptation projects to ensure their effectiveness; 2) Conduct, coordinate, and disseminate studies on the root causes of the farming crisis and migration by agricultural workers as an effect of climate change and the food crisis; 3) Produce a booklet on agricultural workers and climate change with emphasis on the culpability of governments and corporations; 4) Lobby for the People's Convention on Food Sovereignty to become an international convention; 5) Link with consumers in countries demanding agrofuels and raise awareness on the situation of workers in agrofuel development; and 6) Launch awareness-raising activities at the community level in order to link localised impacts to the global context.

2.1.4 Consolidated Report on the Workshop on Consumers

The workshop group reported that the first presentation by Kim touched on some work done by CK and focused on the responsibilities of consumer organisations, the business sector and governments. Kim also presented on ISO standards with respect to the environment, energy efficiency and energy management. She raised the questions of what consumer organisations should do and how consumers could use their voting and purchasing power to alleviate the climate crisis.

The second presentation was by Indrani, who talked about CI's global survey and the consumers' perspective on climate change in a number of countries. It turned out that the countries most concerned about climate change came from the Global South, such as India, Brazil, Mexico and China. The consumers here were willing to spend more to buy environmentally friendly products that decrease climate change.

The group agreed that while it was fine to talk about GHGs and climate change, the discussion must be brought back to agriculture and food production, and what consumers can do in that area. It came up with eight proposals: 1) Promote community-supported agriculture in order to link farmers and consumers groups, for consumers to have a wider

choice, and to set up an infrastructure that would cut out the middle men; 2) Increase the accessibility of rural and poor consumers to farmers' markets (e.g. in the US there are food stamps to buy fresh fruits and vegetables from farmers' markets); 3) Decentralise distribution systems to reduce the use of transportation; 4) Change government policy (e.g. schools to buy local and organic food, have community gardens, and incorporate appreciation of ecological agriculture in their education); 4) Have People's Standards rather than government standards (e.g. in Thanai, organic agriculture standards are stricter than the government's) and police labels in order for them to have a real meaning; 5) Mainstream alternatives such as ecological/organic agriculture; 6) Create people-to-people partnerships particularly between consumers and farmers; 7) Push the food safety agenda as an entry point to get consumers interested in the issues of farmers and agricultural workers; 8) Fair trade as fair to the primary producers (there is concern that fair trade products in the North are costly and that the money goes to NGOs and not the producers themselves.)

Finally, the group agreed that the consumers movement must find a way to translate climate change issues into food issues. The idea behind consumers' support for food issues is shortening the food chain and the distance between consumers and food, and focusing not just on organic products. This is because as organic products become more popular, they become more corporate, as was seen in the US. The group said that the focus must be on local, sustainable agriculture, trying to support local



BEA Hall of Fame

farmers, eating more local and seasonal food, and getting involved in farmers' issues because these ecologically-rational solutions are the key to how agriculture can reduce climate change.

2.1.5 Consolidated Report on the Workshop on Fisherfolk

There was consensus among members of the workshop group that national governments fail to address the prevailing issues of the sector. These issues include the depletion of fisheries resources; the impact of dams on inland fisheries; the lack of appropriate policies addressing illegal fishing and the exploitation of fisheries resources by private businesses; serious droughts and the need for alternative sources of income. There is also a lack of good local governance and difficulty in organising strong fisherfolk communities. Furthermore, various groups with vested interests in exploiting marine resources enter communities and hide behind the guise of development. It was also recognised that the situation of inland communities lack documentation.

The group reported that the major climate change-related problems affecting fisherfolk are the melting of Himalayan glaciers, the flooding of major rivers in Asia and the increase in CO₂ levels leading to ocean acidity and bleaching of coral reefs. Ocean pollution, industrialisation, and expansion/reclamation of bay areas (such as in the Philippines) also exacerbated the destruction of coral reefs and marine life. It was also noted that large-scale prawn farming projects, as well as rising sea levels and soil erosion, have also destroyed mangrove areas. This has resulted in dwindling fish catch and loss of income for fisherfolk.

Meanwhile, the energy crisis made kerosene and gasoline expensive and affected fishing activities. A participant from Indonesia said that the energy crisis has even greater impact on fisherfolk than the food crisis.

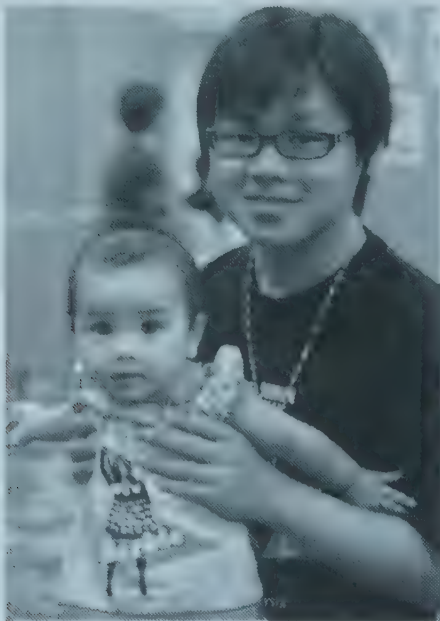
The group then presented the alternatives or response of the small-scale fisheries sector and civil society organisations. Among them is the community enterprise approach of groups in Bangladesh, which involves helping communities understand financial and management aspects of the fisheries enterprise, linking communities to financial institutions,

inculcating self-help concepts, community-based management of local resources, and capacity-building. Groups in the Philippines, meanwhile, conduct adult literacy programmes among fisherfolk and have successful models of organising fishing communities that can be shared. In Sri Lanka, the Fishers Forum has launched campaigns and rallies against fishing technologies that result in resource depletion and massive unemployment. In Malaysia and China, the internet was found to be a good medium for educating voters on the issue of governance. The group identified the need to use technologies like the internet and SMS to reach a large number of people.

The group also outlined several recommendations on how to address the global food crisis and climate change in relation to the fisheries sector.



Participant enjoying the dinner which comprised a variety of local dishes.



Youngest participant

This includes 1) Popularising a critical look at free trade policies on fisheries, especially free trade agreements; 2) Developing a strategy for consumer consciousness and responsibility; 3) Ensuring the collaboration of concerned agencies and networks (which was successful in the case of Sweden); 4) Developing specific policies addressing small fisherfolk's concerns, such as alternative sources of energy; 5) Genuine Fisheries Reform that will ensure control and ownership of marine resources by fisherfolk, sustainable use of the resources, capacity-building of fisheries organisations, the right of women to access resources and financial support, and local consumption to address hunger and poverty among fisherfolk; 6) Strengthening lobbying at the national and international level, strengthening organising and empowerment of fisherfolk and community leaders, mobilising women; 7) Sharing traditional knowledge in the form of specific case studies; 8) Ensuring literacy of fisherfolk; 9) Self-help micro-finance projects in collaboration with local governments; and 10) Establishing a Regional Fisherfolk Network in Asia to strengthen the fisherfolk solidarity.

2.1.6 Consolidated Report on the Workshop on Peasants and Livestock Keepers

The group reported that based on experiences of farmers from different countries, climate change-related problems such as erratic monsoons can be responded to by increasing crop diversity; over-exploitation of groundwater can be addressed by lowering water levels used for crops; and the increase in pest attacks can be dealt with using biological pest control. The revival of traditional varieties and the establishment of community seed banks are responses to the loss of traditional seed varieties.

The group also identified that research institutions supported by MNCs and governments promote FRV (Fertiliser Responsive Varieties) that cannot tolerate droughts, floods and salinity. As a response, participatory research and revival of traditional drought, flood and saline tolerant varieties must be facilitated. Networks and farmer organisations should demand transparency and social responsibility of research institutions, the group said. The promotion of BEA is also seen as the response to HFV (High Fertiliser Responsive Varieties) and HSV (High Solar Utilising

Varieties), technologies also endorsed by research institutes and subsidised by governments. These cause the reduction of trees on fences and bunds, reduction of fodder for cattle, and reduction in biological mass.

Other problems were identified, such as the decrease in the height of Mt. Everest, which is causing floods in the plains and land erosion, the construction of flood control dams that cause damage to life and livelihoods of the people, and the decrease in grazing lands. It was also pointed out that industrialisation and the setting up of special economic zones destroys traditional water bodies and forests.

On the policy level, the group said that a Geographical Identification Policy, which is a threat to farmers, is being drafted. Farmers also face the problem of dumping of cheap agricultural imports as an international policy. A possible response is BEA and food production for homes and communities, and collective processing and marketing. The group also identified the need to dispel the myths created by research institutes, 95% of which are supported by MNCs. There is a need to enhance farmers' capacities in the analysis of agriculture policy as a response, the group said.

2.2 Panel Discussion 2: Advancing People's Movements, Resistance and Alternatives



The panel discussion session caught the attention of all participants

2.2.1 Food Sovereignty

Erpan Faryadi

Aliansi Gerakan Reforma Agraria (AGRA) - Indonesia

Erpan presented the conditions of peasants and the current food crisis. There is a rice shortage in several countries in Asia, reportedly the worst in the last three decades. This has led to further importation to address tight rice supplies, bans on rice exports, and hikes in rice prices. While experts have blamed rising fuel and fertiliser prices, climate change, and lack of mechanisation or irrigation as the causes of the present crises, Asian farmers view the food crisis as caused by the rampant conversion of rice lands to cash crops, government' "development projects" and plantations; the promotion of modern varieties and monoculture farming; and the phasing out of small rice farmers.

Erpan said that many countries in Asia have lost domestic food self-sufficiency by cutting down on rice farming and relying too much on importation. For example, the Philippines, which was a net exporter in the 1980s, has become the world's highest net rice importer since its WTO membership in 1994. Countries like Malaysia and Indonesia have devoted four million hectares and 5.3 million hectares respectively to growing oil palm, and this is expected to quadruple in coming years. Palm oil has already overtaken other crops as the main plantation product in Indonesia.

Erpan shared that for almost three decades, the Indonesian peasantry was forced to follow the "Green Revolution" programmes that were promoted as the antitheses to the land reform programmes. But the Green Revolution instead increased poverty in the countryside and destroyed the environment as peasants were made dependent on fertilisers and pesticides. The entry into the domestic market of imported agricultural commodities also brought disaster to the peasantry. He said that the main cause of the food crisis is the backward and feudal state of agriculture in the Asian countries that is worsened by neo-liberal policies. The Asian Peasants Coalition (APC) strongly believes that implementation of genuine agrarian reform is the ultimate solution to the food crisis. Governments should control food prices, stop importation, give its full

support to domestic rice productivity programmes, and withdraw its membership to WTO, Erpan said.

Erpan also mentioned the state violence and anti-democratic, anti-people, and anti-peasants policies imposed by the puppet regimes of US imperialism. Peasant leaders are arrested or jailed, and some are even murdered. The state uses such violence to force the people to accept state or corporate infrastructure projects funded by TNCs and multi-financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and World Bank.

In conclusion, Erpan said that in a country like Indonesia, the agrarian crisis has caused the impoverishment of peasants. This situation has not only supported semi-feudal oppression in the vast countryside but also impeded the democratic movement in Indonesia. He said that the struggle for food sovereignty and agrarian reform, in essence, is the struggle for economic rights of the people and a step forward in fighting against semi-feudal oppression in Indonesia and other semi-feudal and semi-colonial countries in Asia.

2.2.2 Biodiversity-based Ecological Agriculture

Oswald Quintal

Kudumbam- India

Oswald shared the LEISA Network's initiatives on BEA. Among these is the community forest, which started almost 20 years ago on a mere 15 hectares, and is now an established and widespread practice in the state of Tamil Nadu. The process led to documenting traditional agriculture knowledge across the state. It facilitated farmers' exchanges and led to the birth of the low-input traditional agriculture network. In 1997, farmer field schools for the improvement of soil fertility, water conservation and integrated farming systems were initiated. These field schools involved 60 to 70 per cent of farmers in the whole community. They also started spreading to neighbouring districts in the state. Oswald said that these schools played a big role in agricultural innovations. Scientists from research institutes had a list of questions and the farmers could often answer these questions. This shows that only exposure and the

opportunity to experiment in field conditions can lead to true innovation, he said.

Oswald also shared about the increased awareness of the communities on the impact of GM (genetically modified) seeds. Several workshops, rallies, cultural *yatra* and public meetings were held as part of a mass education campaign. As a result, the *panchayats* passed a resolution banning GM crops. Study circles at the village level were formed, and the frequency and extent of reporting on GM issues has increased. A GM Opposition Day cum Farmers Field Day was also observed. Moreover, Oswald said that PAN AP's GE Rice Road Show led by Dr. Michael Hansen was an eye-opener to students and professors on the health impacts posed by GM products.

Oswald also reported that traditional paddy seed and farmers' innovation exchanges and exhibitions at the state level were held. Translated PAN AP Rice factsheets on SRI and Golden Rice were invaluable as training and educational materials, he added. An SRI training of trainers course for staff and farmers of Rice Campaign partners from India, Nepal and Bangladesh was also co-organised with PAN AP resulting in the adoption of SRI techniques.

Oswald said that LEISA Network's association with PAN AP started with the People's Caravan in 2000, wherein sustainable agriculture training with NGOs and farmers in many parts of the state were held. This led to the 2003 campaign against Bt cotton and the formation of the coalition in the South against genetic engineering. Community seed banks for peanuts, millet, and rice were also established. Recently, the government of Tamil Nadu passed the Tamil Nadu Agriculture Council Act which only allows agricultural graduates to impart training on SA. Farmer organisations across the state came together to oppose it until the government was forced to withdraw the act, he shared.

He recommended the translation of PAN AP publications to Tamil and the conduct of follow-up trainings on BEA, traditional seed production, SRI and organic rice production, and bio-input production.

2.2.3 Gender Justice in Agriculture

Dr. Irene Fernandez

Tenaganita - Malaysia

Irene said that in order to save food and agriculture from the impacts of globalisation, we must begin with the recognition that women farmers are key food producers and farmers in their own right. Their knowledge, skills and roles are necessary in ensuring food security for the family and the community, and for health care and sustainability of the environment. She said that women are the custodians of seeds. They have the knowledge and practice of seed selection and preparation, soil management, pest control, harvest, processing and storage. Women practise agriculture based on the principles that seeds and genetic resources are for the community, and not for individual ownership.

Irene said that gender justice is beyond the issue of participation; it is about gender exclusion. The layers of exclusion are tremendous and are made worse by globalisation. She quoted Bina Agarwal, who said, “The seeds of poverty for men may lie in the exclusion of women.” Irene said that women’s exclusion began with the disastrous Green Revolution, which strengthened existing patriarchy in land ownership and decision-making. This exclusion intensified with imperialist globalisation and the World Trade Organisation.

Irene talked about patriarchal communities in India, where forests and land are managed by male-dominated executive councils. Women are often excluded outright from village decision-making, or allowed only nominal or passive roles. Women also own less land and animals than men, and have less cash and access to markets. She said that women farmers remained invisible as they were subordinated and controlled through patriarchy, class, caste and ethnicity within traditional agriculture.

Irene then said that the Green Revolution further reduced women’s power. “Global dictator mechanisms” were set up to control food production and remove subsidies and support for farmers. Through the WTO, free trade agreements, TRIPs, and national seed laws, women lost

control and access to seeds, land, and genetic resources. Instead, these became commodities to be traded for profit.

Irene shared about how Syngenta challenged PAN AP's materials on paraquat. In a letter to Jacques Diouf, Secretary General of the FAO, Syngenta complained that PAN AP had violated the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides by spreading "undue alarm about paraquat." The company asked for PAN AP's paraquat posters not to be displayed at the PIC COP2.

Irene discussed how human trafficking increases the vulnerability of women. She said that trafficking is a growing global crime or a form of modern slavery.

She then defined gender justice as "the protection and promotion of civil, political, economic and social rights on the basis of gender equality." She said that there are two elements necessary to incorporating a gender justice agenda. The first requires acknowledging the specific needs of women in a system that has been designed to acknowledge and seek justice for crimes experienced and defined by men. It requires the inclusion of women in all processes designed to deliver redress for the past. The second element moves beyond the inclusion of women into existing mechanisms. It requires that the system must be changed. There must be a transformational holistic change attacking root causes and building on rights and equality.

In conclusion, Irene said that women's food sovereignty lies in gender justice and gender equality. Gender justice must be a mainstreaming process in addressing crises such as climate change and moving towards sustainable agriculture, she said.

2.2.4 Climate Justice

Donatus Marut

Indonesian NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID)

Donatus said that climate change is an issue of humanity that cannot be solved just by a technological, environmental, or economic fix. He said

that climate change took place as a result of injustice, or 150 years of colonialism, neocolonialism, and imperialism. Thus, the solution to climate change has been put within injustice frameworks, or market-oriented vs. human and ecological frameworks. He said that the current measures on climate change, wherein poor countries have the same responsibilities as developed countries, will only create deeper injustice.

Donatus outlined the three areas and levels of injustice: 1) process level; 2) contents level; and 3) enforcement measures. He shared that during and before the COP, the US influenced the Kyoto Protocol process. The US chaired all the working groups while developing countries sent government bureaucrats who had little scientific knowledge. In the ongoing negotiations in Copenhagen, corporate lobbyists moved around and influenced the European Union and Japan. Donatus said that as a result, the Kyoto Protocol became a compromise between developed and developing countries. The US government under Pres. Bill Clinton signed the document, but the Republican-dominated Congress did not ratify it. It contained more market-based muscles rather than strong legal muscles to punish emitters. The latter was rejected in favor of more joint implementation. Although the Protocol allows for forms of government intervention, these are very minimal and are guided by the neoliberal paradigm. Donatus said that the results of negotiations for mitigation are bound to push developing countries into more debt as they will borrow money to prepare strategies for emission reduction.

He described the climate justice movement as crowded and slippery—various groupings are involved, promoting their own principles such as climate justice and environmental justice. Donatus said that there is the problem of definition of justice: Justice for whom? He said that it is always market-oriented vs. “the people,” the latter being a source of legitimacy and an object of exploitation. He lamented that some groups have already accepted the market-oriented mechanisms such as carbon trade. Donatus described carbon trade mechanism as an income-generating activity for developed countries and as another form of colonialism.

Meanwhile, he clarified that the People’s Movement on Climate Change is not just another variant of climate justice. The People’s Protocol, he said, is intended to be an antithesis to the market-oriented Kyoto Protocol. In

conclusion, he said that now is the best time for all nations in the world to look into their fundamental world views, whether the choices that have been made and the relations involved have been in line with the fundamental worldviews of humanity, human relations and space. It is the time to get rid of carbon colonialism, and stand up together as equal human beings with the same rights to the sky and ecological space, Donatus said.

2.3 Open Forum

- Josie Fernandez of Philanthropy Asia said that it might be helpful to look at Japan as an example of self-sufficiency in rice. Economic development should be seen within the context of sustainability to eradicate poverty in developing countries, she said. She also said the way that aquaculture is being promoted through certification programmes of NGOs must be questioned.
- Erpan agreed that land reform is already implemented in Japan. But he said that this was way back in the past, and the way it is implemented now is in the context of capitalism. The US has the intention of supporting Japan's land reform in the context of capturing markets, so the case study of Japan will be dangerous for us.
- Balram agreed that positive efforts on self-sufficiency and sustainable agriculture must be recognised.
- A participant from Force Voices said that there are lots of examples of hope. But a lot of the information, for instance on community forestry, is locked up. He said that given the challenges of documenting in terms of logistics, he asked how the issue of documentation could be taken up so that these would reach the people that matter and our actions will have real power. He cited the experience of the World Wildlife Fund in successful documentation.

Irene said that documentation is already being done, although there is a need for more. She said that the WWF has a different framework and area of information. She agreed that there is a need to see the different relationships in sustainable agriculture.

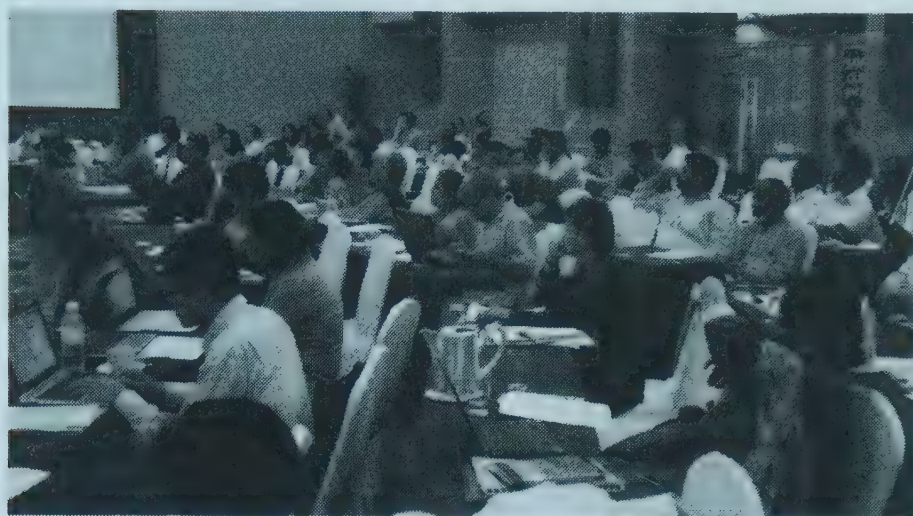
Oswald agreed that there is a need to document emerging community alternatives, and to fine-tune the documentation of farmers' innovations.

- Vlady of Grain added to Erpan's presentation and said that the Philippines has been importing rice since the 1930s. The country managed to export in 1969 and 1979 partly because of the Green Revolution. While accession to the WTO cemented neo-liberalisation, restructuring goes way back. The case of the Philippines parallels that of Haiti, which is one of the worst hit by the food crisis. Twenty years ago, it was self-sufficient until it became an importer of US rice. Loans from the World Bank forced its government to twist its policies on domestic production.
- Ben Hobbs of Christian Aid said that the climate justice movement may have been misrepresented in Donatus' presentation. He agreed that there are a lot of western NGOs who have endorsed market mechanisms, but in terms of the climate justice movement, there are a lot of positive things going on. The Climate Justice Now Coalition has 150 organisations, many of these based in the South. One of its principles is suspicion of market-based mechanisms as the proper response to climate change. He appealed not to create opposition within the NGO sector. The climate justice movement is empowering and we should all give it our backing, he said.

Donatus clarified that he didn't mention specific NGOs in his presentation. He pointed out that some organisations at the local level are participating in corporate mechanisms, and that there should be consistency in what is meant by justice and what is done in the field. In communities, carbon certificates are sold to corporations while people are given only allowances. He warned that the carbon trade will be managed by the same financialised capitalism. As an example, he warned that there will be loss of control over organic farming once the required organic farming certification is sold to the carbon market.

On climate justice, Irene said the issue is that we need to strengthen the analysis. Compensations must go to communities,

and not to governments that will use it for market forces. The points in Donatus' presentation look at the framework. If there are gaps in the analysis, it is important to see how we look at those gaps. There may be groups that will agree and disagree, but the framework should always be people-centered.



Conference participants listening attentively during the open forum

2.4 Sharing of Grassroots Experiences and Best Practices

2.4.1 Dr. Charito Medina

Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad sa Agrikultura (MASIPAG) - Philippines

Chito emphasised that in order to cope with the food crisis and climate change, it is important to make use of biodiversity through conservation and utilisation. He shared the experience of Masipag in using seeds as a form of adaptation. He said that 1,090 traditional rice varieties have been collected; 1,069 Masipag rice developed; and 75 native corn varieties collected. Rice in different shapes, colours, flavors, and adaptations is bred by the farmers themselves, he said. Masipag has developed 67 farmer-breeders and 273 rice crosses. The rice developed have high tillering capacity, are saltwater tolerant and have high pest/disease resistance, among other traits. Masipag also practices the use of diversified farming systems and soil fertility management.

Chito said that technology must be developed as well as democratised. Technology must be by the farmer, of the farmer, for the farmer.

Indigenous or local knowledge must be incorporated. Technology must be malleable or contextualised.

Chito then shared several farmer-developed and adapted technologies, such as *pangi* leaves used as botanical pest control in the province of Zamboanga del Sur, and the carabao-driven rotary used in rice farming in the province of Sultan Kudarat. He said that farmer-managed trial farms can be found in 49 provinces. The farmer-led approach, Chito said, incorporates social solutions and actively engages farmers' organisations as a sharing and support system. These People's Organisations (PO) make up the backbone of the Masipag nationwide network. He also shared about the Masipag Rice Conservation Support system, which is not just about the storage of seeds but a whole system. This system includes farm production, verification farms, PO-managed trial farms, and provincial, regional, and national back-up farms.

He concluded by emphasising the importance of organisation in grassroots initiatives to confront the food crisis and climate change.

2.4.2 Vijay Jarhdhari

Beej Bachao Andolan - India

Vijay explained that upland farmers, where agriculture is mostly rain-fed, are hit hard by climate change. Forests catch fire very easily and because there is nothing to eat for the animals, they go to the fields and destroy crops. Lesser cattle also forage from the forests; there are decreasing populations of honeybees and butterflies. Plant and tree species have also changed their characteristics; they are not appearing in season and their quality has deteriorated. For instance, the state flower (rhododendron) used to bloom from March to April, but they bloomed in January this time. He further explained that they had six seasons – spring, summer, monsoon, autumn, mild winter, and high winter. The monsoons and high winter (sometimes mild winter) took care of water needs. Until three decades ago, these were regular. So regular and exact that the farmers would begin some of their farming work on the 8th day of the month of Aasaarh (approximately June to July), for that day they would invariably have the first rain of the monsoon. Now, Vijay said that this has changed; the climate crisis has hit them and so has the food crisis.

In the mountains, they do not depend on the big rivers but on small perennial streams and rivulets and seasonal springs, Vijay said. Only 13% of their fields are irrigated. The rest is dry land farming, which depended on rain and soil moisture from snow and dew. When there is no snow or glacier, it is first the water in these seasonal springs and local rivers and streams that begins to dry. This affects the entire agriculture process from sowing to harvesting. In Uttarakhand, almost 30% of the water sources have dried out, while the remaining 70% have severely weakened. Gangotri glacier, the source of the river Ganga is receding at a rate of 15 meters per year.

But the people's struggle has already resulted in victories, Vijay said. Subsequent talks with the local administration have led to a government programme for the revival of lost springs, pools and other sources of traditional water systems. The Green Revolution and our development policies may have taken away our food and agriculture, but it has not been able to take away our will, he said. He said that our last trust and hope lies in people's mobilisation and collective action, and in bio-diverse traditional agriculture. He said that those who trust and practise this are suffering a little less from the food crisis and climate change. In conclusion, he quoted Mahatma Gandhi who said, "The earth provides for everyone's need, but not for anyone's greed," and said that change has to start within ourselves.

2.4.3 Sun Jing

Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center - China

Sun introduced PEAC as a Chinese domestic NGO that aims to identify, extend and advance ecological alternative forms of pest control and promote ecological agriculture and organic agriculture. PEAC also has a programme on climate change and agriculture. The planthopper outbreak in several provinces in China, for instance, is seen as a concrete effect of climate change on agriculture.

Sun cited a successful case in Chengguan village, Dali, Yunnan, of the rural community's involvement in pesticide reduction. The use of highly toxic pesticides like methamidophos was stopped, and insecticide use was reduced by at least 50%. The leading farmers formed their own

training schools authorised by the local government. Women organised groups to clean pesticide containers and to teach others about pesticide hazards. They organised farmers to carry out ecological farming and successful fundraising. Over the past three years, crop pests did not lead to significant economic loss and per capita incomes increased by about RMB300 each year. It was selected by the government to be an Ecological Model Village.

Sun also related several successful NGO/CSO concrete actions. The rural/urban programme group of the Social Work Center in Yunnan University incorporated pesticide reduction and ecological rice farming into their project activities. The Center of Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge used weed machines in place of paraquat and advanced the growing of organic tea in the south of Yunnan. The Southwest Office of Heifer International China Programme helped farmers with ecological vegetable farming around Kunming. Some groups in GuiZhou, Shannxi, Henan and Beijing also began action, she said. She also shared that their educational programme has been successful, especially the teachers' capacity building on community agro-biodiversity value and sustainable use, agro-chemical harm, and agro-environmental improvement. These topics have been incorporated into the educational plan and curriculum of two rural primary schools, and some universities. Additionally, several PhD and Masters students completed their dissertation research on ecological alternatives and pesticide risk assessment at PEAC in the past five years.

PEAC has also cooperated well with the government, Sun said. They facilitated governmental sectors in advancing community based alternative pest management system and in planning how to expand the ban of methamidophos and how to ban or restrict paraquat in the whole of China.

2.5 Open Forum

- Josie asked Chito if the biodiversity approach contributed to increased income for farmers. She asked Vijay if there are young farmers remaining in the mountains.

Chito replied, definitely yes. There was a reduction of inputs, increased diversity, and higher income because of the eliminated cost of inputs. There was positive income compared to negative income for chemical farmers, in a nationwide study of 100 farmers per category. The measurement of the whole impact is written in a book, he added.

Vijay said that traditional varieties have given equal if not more yield than modern varieties. But he said that we have to define yield not just in kilograms because it leads to a certain trap that we need to avoid. He also answered that there are young people in the mountains. But because of education and consumerism, young people are not attracted to agriculture, although increasing unemployment has caused them to begin to look back on their agricultural roots.

- Khamla Bhasin said that there was a need to practice what you preach. She advocated for a change in lifestyles of NGOs.



Open forum

2.6 Parallel Workshops 2: Streams of Struggles: Strategies and Action Plans for the Next 4 Years

2.6.1 Workshop 1: Food Sovereignty

The objectives of the workshop were to: a) Strengthen community resilience and food sovereignty in the face of the food crisis and climate

change; b) Identify strategies to strengthen people's assertion of food sovereignty at the local, national, and international levels; and c) Come up with recommendation and strategies for the World Summit on Food Security and the UN Conference on Climate Change.

There was discussion on what needed to be learned from the impact of the food and climate crises on agriculture, including key challenges to people's food sovereignty at the local, national, and global levels. The group then discussed key strategies and action plans.

2.6.2 Workshop 2: Biodiversity-Based Ecological Agriculture

Clare Westwood presented on the challenges of BEA, PAN AP's work in BEA so far, and the key issues in BEA. Dr. Chito Medina of MASIPAG shared on BEA and productivity, marketing, and support systems. Pavel of the Bangladesh Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK) talked on applications for community adaptation and resilience. A representative from CEDAC shared on the development of SRI in Cambodia as an example of upscaling and mainstreaming BEA in policy.

The group then discussed the opportunities and entry points, as well as the gaps and needs, concerning BEA in addressing the food crisis and climate change; possible plans and how PAN AP can facilitate these plans; and how to take advantage of the World Summit on Food Security and the UN Conference on Climate Change to advance BEA.

2.6.3 Workshop 3: Gender Justice in Agriculture

The objectives of the workshop were to: a) Identify initiatives, mechanisms, and opportunities available to ensure that the food crisis and climate change and their adverse impact on women and children are addressed; b) Identify the gaps and challenges, from a gender perspective, in addressing the food crisis and climate change; c) Generate common strategies and concrete plans at the local, national, regional, and international levels.

There was sharing and discussion, and then consolidation of strategies and action plans in policy advocacy, campaigns, and strengthening movements. The group also discussed their contribution to the Unity Statement.

2.6.4 Workshop 4: Climate Justice

The objectives of the workshop were to: a) Identify the people's responses to the food crisis and climate change in the context of the People's Movement on Climate Change and the campaign to promote the People's Protocol as the Southern people's response and solution to the climate crisis; and b) Provide an opportunity for analysis, strategising, and cooperation for Copenhagen COP 15 and beyond.

Antonio Tujan of APRN and Ibon Foundation presented on the overall impact and vulnerability of the Asia Pacific region to climate change, and what must be done. The group then identified existing people's responses at the national and sub-national level, described how the climate crisis campaign translates at the community level, and drew specific campaign calls or what the agricultural and rural sectors demand on the basis of climate justice.

2.7 Reporting on Parallel Workshops 2

2.7.1 Consolidated Report on the Workshop on Food Sovereignty

The workshop group shared that Saro discussed the difference between food security and food sovereignty. It was later agreed to just review the People's Statement of the Asia Pacific Convention on Food Sovereignty for further details. The group then proceeded to outline the key strategies and action plans that they agreed upon in terms of campaigns, networking, policy advocacy, and issues for the World Food Summit.

Campaigns

It was agreed that there must be a campaign on the promotion and support of traditional knowledge and local wisdom of indigenous communities

and small producers. There must also be promotion and support of food sovereignty communities towards self-reliance. There must also be a campaign for the wider outreach of the People's Convention on Food Sovereignty, including its adoption, additions (on gender justice, low energy, and responsibility of farmers), and enrichment (on restoration and regeneration). The need to strengthen and develop a platform on food sovereignty at the national level (e.g. Malaysia) was agreed upon. It was further suggested that survivors of disasters be supported and that national governments should be held responsible for these disasters. The need for a specific campaign for agricultural workers' wages and land was raised. Furthermore, there is a need for a campaign for genuine agrarian reform, which could extend to the policy level (such as the campaign for the passage of the Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill in the Philippines). The continuous need for awareness raising, organising, and mobilisation was emphasised.

Several regional and international actions like the People's Caravan 2000 and 2004; WORA 2007 and 2008; YORA 2009-2010; and World Foodless Day 2008 were needed, but with participation from more organisations and countries. There is also a need for a country-level exchange programme between agricultural workers and peasants; and of a Permanent People's Tribunal on Agrochemical TNCs wherein cases against agrochemical TNCs could be brought up. It was discussed that language was always changing so it was important to develop and formulate precise terminology. The campaign against chemical pesticides and fertilisers was also affirmed by the group.



*PAN AP publications
were available for free
distribution*

Seed conservation, BEA, and adaptation strategies

The group agreed that emphasis must be given to farmer-led breeding and research. It was also important to search for local markets for farmers' produce. In order to create livelihoods, it was suggested that young people could be developed as advisors/experts on BEA. It was suggested that PAN AP could propagate the concept of BEA. It was agreed that national seed exchanges can be converted into protest campaigns; and that community resilience be developed through BEA.

Networking

The group said that there is a need to strengthen broad sectoral networking as well as networking among farmers to practice BEA.

Policy advocacy

The group specifically said that an implementation plan for Nepal on food sovereignty must be created. Information from Bolivia, Cuba, and Venezuela regarding food sovereignty implementation in their national plans could be sent to Nepal. A signature campaign and support letters could be sent to the Nepalese government as well.

World Food Summit 2009

The group agreed to aggressively and critically lobby at the FAO World Food Summit 2009. The goal is to support and increase the prominence of the IAASTD in the FAO, come up with a critique on the draft proposed FAO declaration, and use the IAASTD for policy advocacy work.

2.7.2 Consolidated Report on the Workshop on Biodiversity-Based Ecological Agriculture

The group first defined the elements of BEA as the rejection of chemical pesticides; synthetic fertilisers; monocultures; and high yielding, hybrid, or GE seeds. It uses only traditional local varieties, is farmer and community led, practised on small farms, and ensures food sovereignty rights and equal gender participation and leadership.

On workshop question 1 (a) What are the opportunities and entry points for BEA in addressing the food crisis and climate change? and 1(b) What are the gaps/needs?, the group reported the following:

The opportunities for BEA lie in its success as compared to the failure of corporate agriculture. There is a need to document how corporate agriculture contributed to the food crisis. To highlight the advantages of BEA, comparative studies between conventional agriculture and BEA in terms of net incomes and nutrition must be made. It was recognised that there is a market for health conscious consumers (organic products) and a need for livelihood opportunities at a time of employment crisis. BEA should be seen as the alternative to hybrids, GE food, and chemical farming. BEA should be seen as strengthening the resistance against a centralised and uniform system of agriculture for a more autonomous and local one where traditional, local seeds, knowledge and technology are available and accessible. The group pointed out that BEA produces less GHGs, but that there should be quantitative research on this vis-à-vis emissions from synthetic fertilisers. Other opportunities include the use of education centres as support systems, documentation of action research, exchanges, mobilising the youth and consumers, lobbying for national agriculture policies to support and subsidise BEA, and exploring BEA as a solution to the global energy crisis. International instruments such as SAICM, IAASTD, CBD, and the FAO HHPs project could also be used to strengthen lobbying for BEA.

The gaps that must be addressed are the loss of biodiversity and the lack of mechanisms to support farmer-led research.

On workshop Q2 (a) In view of the above, what can we do as a network to advance the good work already being done on the ground on BEA (4-year plans)? and (b) How can PAN AP facilitate these plans?, the group reported the following:

The strategies for the 4-year plan include consolidating existing approaches, information and knowledge; identifying training organisations for capacity sharing within the region; conducting Training Needs Assessment of partners; standardising documentation on innovation and BEA adaptation; facilitating farmers' exchange of inspiring success stories; lobbying government agricultural institutions and educational institutions; engaging other sectors (including filmmakers and musicians); capacity building for self-sustenance (to address the oil crisis); strengthening NGO networking and NGO participation in



*Future BEA products:
seed free from pesticide
and other harmful
chemicals*

decision-making forums; using international instruments to promote BEA; documenting the failures of corporate agriculture including the use of the IAASTD; organising and designing local food and local distribution systems; media and youth outreach; and promoting seed and biodiversity conservation. PAN AP could support any of these activities.

On workshop Q3 (a) How can we take advantage of the upcoming World Summit on Food Security and the UN Climate Change Conference 2009 in advancing the BEA agenda? and (b) How can PAN AP facilitate these plans?, the group reported the following:

For the WFS, the IAASTD could be referenced; small farmers rights could be lobbied (in that they are recognised in the international undertaking on plant genetic resources and the CBD); the reports of the FAO and IFPRI could be used; the food crisis could be used to lobby for BEA; and statements could be sent to departments of each country participating in the WFS.

Meanwhile, the UNFCCC could be asked to support actions to promote the protection of biodiversity, and to mainstream research and implementation support on BEA. If there is an increase in adaptation funds, the IAASTD could be referred to in order to lobby that the funds should be for BEA and not the Green Revolution model. The energy crisis could be used to promote BEA.

2.7.3 Consolidated Report on the Workshop on Gender Justice in Agriculture

The workshop group said that it was guided by Irene's presentation on gender justice as the "protection and promotion of civil, political, economic and social rights on the basis of gender equality." They agreed that gender justice necessitates taking a gender perspective on rights, as well as the assessment of access and obstacles to the enjoyment of these rights for women, men, girls and boys, and adopting strategies that realise total transformation.

The group proposed the following initiatives: education and training on laws; linking the climate and food crisis to trafficking and forced migration (that reflect the failure to rebuild the agricultural economy and to alleviate poverty); linking with women organisations and women working with migration issues; and political mobilisation of women.

The following actions were proposed: information and critical analysis of policies; linking organisations and their actions; political mobilisation of women; exchange of learning/experiences (e.g. through workshops); research and documentation; and policy advocacy.



A participant giving his feedback during the plenary session

The group also proposed these specific actions: research and documentation on the impact of the food and climate crisis on women and the initiatives taken to take control of resources and to fight the crisis; to register women's visibility not as victims but as voices against the climate crisis; critiquing current documents (by the UN, governments, etc.); ARWC issuing a position paper on the climate crisis; and looking at disaster management within the framework of gender justice.

2.7.4 Consolidated Report on the Workshop on Climate Justice

The workshop group reported that they discussed what happened to the people's movement in COP 14. There was a discussion on trying to understand the issues. A lot of groups are jumping onto the climate change bandwagon and we are not very clear about the solutions that are being proposed.

The group proposed the following actions for COP 15: get feedback from the public through e-media (to be led by PAN AP & SwedBio); attend the IP's and women's group meeting in Kalimantan (to be held from October 16 to 18); hold a National Conference on Climate Change; a series of activities in India (to be led by CECOEDECON); hold media consultations; hold national consultations for political parties and legislators; hold consultations with embassies; create a directory of terminologies; critique the Government of India's position paper; interact with people in six zones to get their testimonies; participate in four side events in Copenhagen; send a 10-person delegation; hold a People's Assembly (to be led by the PMCC on the first day of COP 15); conduct a Global Day of Action (to be led by the PMCC on December 12); conduct a creative, visible, and educational event for children (to be led by SHISUK); amend the PMCC's unity statement on climate justice (include a section on carbon trading, and emphasise more compensation for pollution to be used for mitigation strategies but not through IMF-WB but an alternative mechanism); monitor national adaptation strategies; organise disaster preparedness programmes via local volunteering movements; organise national networks on climate change; lobby governments to include climate change issues in school curricula; and offer climate change programmes in universities.

2.8 Open Forum

- Cynthia asked what the PMCC stands for. Sylvia replied that it stood for the People's Movement on Climate Change. She read the PMCC's unity statement and the People's Protocol on Climate Change.

Saro said that one of the calls of the unity statement is to endorse the People's Protocol on Climate Change. The protocol has gone through consultations, but it is still open for discussion and additions until COP 15.

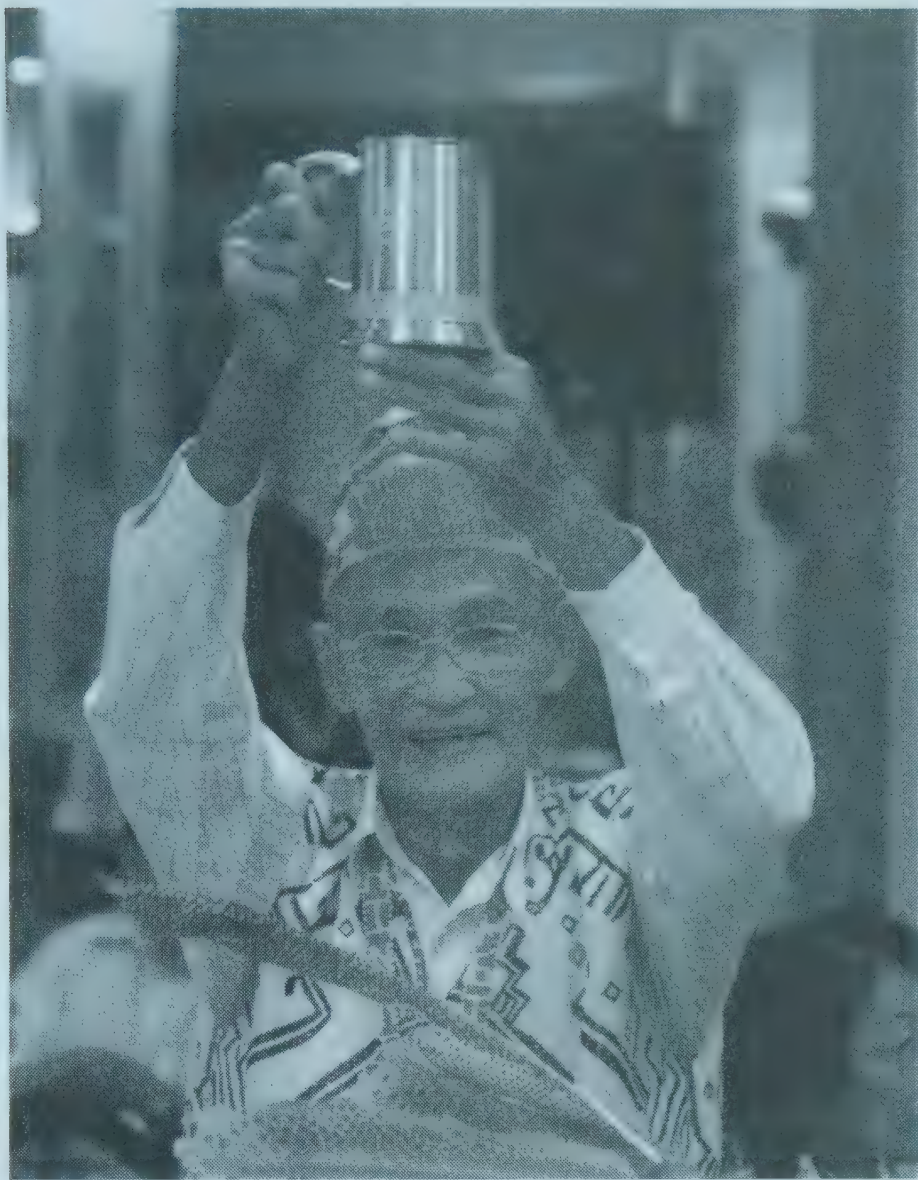
Tony added that the PMCC came out of a proposal from the APRN conference in Bangkok, Thailand, last October 2007. It was launched in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007 and then moved forward. After the Asian launch, the PMCC has now spread to Africa and the Middle East. There is a facilitation group that is open for anybody's participation.

2.9 Night of Inspiration

The participants paid tribute to Malaysian heroes and heroines who contributed to social change in their communities. These were Che Ani Mat Zain, Hj Saidin (posthumous), Tijah Yok Chopil, Noor Anak Nyawai, and Ason Anak Belilie.



*Ms. Sarojeni V. Rengam
presenting the token of
appreciation to Noor
Anak Nyawai*



An inspiring and energetic leader, honoured for his contribution to the struggle of the indigenous peoples.

DAY 3: SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

Theme:
***From Critique to Action: Strategies
That Will Make an Impact in the Next
Four Years***

3.1 Consolidation of Plans of Action

A working group presented a consolidated plan of action based on the reports of the various workshops. This comprised detailed plans on: 1) Policy Advocacy (with emphasis on mainstreaming BEA in the World Food Summit 2009 and UNFCCC COP 15); 2) Building Awareness, Campaigns, and Movements; 3) Research and Documentation; 4) Capacity-Building & Transformative Strategies; and 5) Self-action or Looking Inwards.

Policy Advocacy

- Fight for fair wages and land for agricultural workers
- Develop national platforms for food sovereignty (especially Nepal)
- Promote Genuine Agrarian Reform
- Lobby for the People's Convention on Food Sovereignty to become an international convention
- Ensure women's visibility not as victims but as voices against the climate crisis
- Critique current documents (of the United Nations, governments) and put out position papers (i.e., the ARWC should issue a position paper on climate change)
- Support survivors of disaster (the national governments should be held responsible)
- Look at disaster management in the framework of gender justice
- Hold a Global Day of Action (December 12) at Copenhagen (possibly regional)
- Challenge the dominant system and strengthen the resistance against a centralised and uniform system for more autonomous, local agriculture
- Use international instruments to support BEA (i.e., SAICM, IAASTD, CBD, FAO, and the HHPs project)
- Promote community garden space (urban and peri-urban agriculture)
- Influence drafting of national agricultural policies
- Lobby to shift subsidies from conventional farming to BEA
- Lobby government agricultural institutions and educational institutions

- Lobby for actions to promote BEA
- Lobby governments for special provisions for women and children on strategies and respond to gender issues on climate change
- Demand governments to research the existing impacts of climate change and how livelihoods are being destroyed
- Demand for land to be given back to indigenous peoples
- Promote organic farming
- Protect common property (water bodies)
- Critique free trade policies on fisheries
- Promote Genuine Fisheries Reform
- Lobby for specific policies addressing small fisherfolk (i.e., alternative sources of energy)
- Decentralise food distribution systems
- Lobby for policies for schools to grow organic food
- Lobby for crop insurance to protect farmers

For the World Food Summit

- Use the IAASTD at the WFS to support BEA
- Send out the People's Protocol to delegates attending the WFS
- Devote resources to related studies such as the root causes of the farming crisis in Asia and how it affects countries differently

For the UNFCCC Meeting in Copenhagen

- Demand mainstreaming, research and implementation support for BEA
- Push for adaptation funding to be used for BEA to support farmers to cope with CC
- Undertake preparations for COP 15 (national and regional)
- Participate in COP 15
- Actions Post COP 15: lobby governments to implement climate change issues in school curricula

Building Awareness, Campaigns, and Movements

- Campaign on the promotion and support of traditional knowledge and local wisdom of indigenous communities and small producers
- Promotion and support of food sovereignty communities towards self-reliance / community resilience

- Conduct awareness raising, organising and mobilising on food sovereignty, gender justice, climate justice and BEA
- Hold exchange programmes in the region on the four themes
- Conduct regional campaigns/mass mobilisations
- Hold a Permanent People's Tribunal on agrochemical TNCs
- Conduct a regional campaign on the impact of pesticides and fertilisers on health and the environment
- Hold national and state-level seed exchanges as protest campaigns
- Develop strategies to link with women organisations and women working with migration
- Organise national networks on climate change
- Facilitate farmers' exchange of inspiring stories and promote these
- Develop communication strategies
- Engage other sectors (including filmmakers, musicians, etc.)
- Strengthen NGO networking to help lobby governments and NGO participation in decision-making forums and empowerment
- Organise and design local food and local distribution systems
- Outreach to media and the youth
- Promote farm seed & biodiversity conservation
- Produce a booklet on agricultural workers and climate change with emphasis on the role of governments and corporations in causing climate change
- Link agricultural workers with consumers in countries demanding for agrofuels on the situation of workers in agrofuel development
- Conduct awareness-raising in the community or the local level (e.g. launch a common day for awareness-raising actions) and link localised impacts to the global context
- Struggle in order to have control on land and agricultural practice
- Ensure solidarity and literacy of fisherfolk
- Establish a Regional Fisherfolk Network in Asia (to strengthen the people's solidarity)
- Push for and popularise knowledge on ecologically sound practices
- Develop strategies in developing consumer consciousness and responsibility
- Develop community-supported agriculture
- Campaign for rural and urban poor consumers' access to markets (e.g. food stamps)

- Campaign for schools to grow organic food and hospitals to serve organic food
- Establish People's Standards for organic food (e.g. organic bazaars organised by Thanal) and pay attention to eco-labels
- Mainstream alternatives and people-to-people partnerships
- Conduct a consumer campaign using food safety as an entry point to conscientise consumers
- Ensure fair trade to the producers and guarantees on their livelihood (South-South cooperation) and link fair trade to climate change
- Conduct a consumer outreach campaign that would incorporate food into the issue of climate change (e.g. shortening the food chain)
- Push for the revival of home gardens
- Conduct a campaign for safe and healthy food

Research and Documentation

- Research on farmer-led breeding
- Research, documentation and case studies on experiences of the impact of the food and climate crises on women and the initiatives taken to control resources to fight the crises
- Monitor National Adaptation Strategies
- Document yield vs. nutrient density for traditional versus modern varieties and GMOs
- Consolidate existing BEA approaches, information and knowledge
- Standardise documentation on innovation and BEA adaptation
- Document the impacts of climate change at the community levels and gather concrete evidence. Document local adaptation strategies and submit them to governments. Monitor government funding of adaptation projects to ensure effectiveness
- Conduct studies on the roots causes of the farming crisis and migration by agricultural workers as an effect of climate change and the food crisis. Disseminate or coordinate documentation and research projects
- Document community maps of IP's lands. We should intensify work on this but this information should stay in the community since they are the owners and nobody else
- Share traditional knowledge in the form of a case study (fisherfolk)

Capacity-Building & Transformative Strategies

- Create local markets for farmers' produce
- Create livelihoods and job opportunities (develop youth as advisors/experts on BEA)
- Hold exchanges between agricultural workers and peasants
- Hold education and training on laws for women
- Hold exchanges on the experiences of women in communities with respect to climate change and the food crisis
- Organise disaster preparedness programmes
- Offer climate change programmes in universities
- Enhance farmers' capacity to analyse peasant issues
- Ensure capacity-building of farmers for value addition of their products
- Conduct training on alternative health
- Identify training organisations for capacity sharing within the region
- Conduct Training Needs Assessment of partners on BEA
- Promote BEA and adaptation to address climate change
- Ensure capacity-building for self-sustenance (to address the energy crisis and peak oil situation). Set up demonstration sites for growing food.
- Promote farm seed & biodiversity conservation and organic farming
- Ensure collaboration of concerned agencies and networks (as in the case of Sweden)
- Strengthen lobbying at the national and international level by the fisher community (i.e. organising and empowerment of fisherfolk and community leaders, mobilising women)

Self-Action/ Looking Inwards

- Self-assessment and reflection: Are we Ecological? Participatory? Democratic?
- Movement strengthening
- Sorting out of differences; peace and reconciliation

3.2 Open Forum

- Vitoon Panyakul asked how the recommendations were arrived at and expressed concern about how they may be accomplished.

Clare said that it was the summary of the key recommendations from the workshops.

Gilbert observed that the question of tasking was missing in the workshops, and that tasking was for the plenary to decide.

Irene clarified that the processes undertaken were the workshop discussions, and the group had put the recommendations together in a consolidated format. There are various organisations and sectors and no single body will take on all of them. There are also different levels.

Clare agreed that the plan of action is a mixture of local, national, and regional actions and we have to see which is appropriate for whom.

Saro clarified that some organisations will continue to advance their strategies, and that the plan of action would just be a continuation of the things already being done. But there may also be new things that have emerged. PAN AP will facilitate the process of carrying these out, she said. Other organisations may also want to take the lead. She said that they are making the list available in order to see the current initiatives of the different groups, also to see which ones are emerging.

Gilbert recommended that the list be improved by going back to the notes of the workshop groups because there is no tasking.

Koa Tasaka commented that the long list shows the richness and diversity of activities, and agreed with Saro. But he also agreed with Vitoon that there must be priorities in terms of short-term and long-term goals. There are many social injustices, and there should be a strategy on which social injustice should be taken on.

Saro said that PAN AP respects the focus of each organisation. She said that the World Food Summit and COP 15 would feed our criticism and protest against corporate agriculture. Some strategies will be immediate in terms of meeting new challenges that we are facing.

Nonetheless, all are useful because they will enrich the discussion during the PAN Congress. Saro assured that these would be taken up by the programme task forces. She also said that it is important to make sure that information goes out to all participants so that people will be inspired by all the work being done.

- Tony said that we should use the word 'adaptation' only in reference to climate change as it was an official term associated with climate change. But he said that the term is not for us because it assumes we are adapting to the existing system. He suggested using the term "transformative strategies" instead. He added that the issue of terminology goes to the heart of PAN AP and food sovereignty. BEA is transformational as compared to corporate agriculture. He felt it an insult to call what we are doing as adaptive measures.

Clare clarified that the term came from the workshop reports.

Sarath expressed favor for the word transformative, to emphasise the point that we are united to transform and not to adapt, because the current system should not be allowed to continue.

Chito said that the two words were not mutually exclusive. He said that adaptation is the stepping stone while the broader context is transformation.

Khushi Kabir said that we cannot agree to adapt to corporate agriculture that is responsible for the world being as it is.

Sarath emphasised that the world must be completely transformed, even reversed. Maybe what we achieve is adaptation, but where do we want to move towards, he asked. He said the question is essential in order to understand who the real agents for change are. Leadership must be in the right direction, we must not accept the status quo.

- Josie expressed concern that the exchange of seeds may lead to their commodification.

Biju clarified that the sharing of seeds will only be done at the local and national levels and as a protest action and demand for the control of seeds by peasants.

- Khamla said that all the points are outward-looking. She reiterated that the need to look at ourselves. She suggested having a section where organisational matters and lifestyles can be addressed.

3.3 Campaign on Climate Change and Community Resilience

Biju Negi

Coordinator, Task Force for Food Sovereignty

Biju explained that the production and distribution of common food products found in supermarket, such as rice, sausages, butter, and sea salt emit so much carbon. He raised the question if we are contributing to climate change and to the further decimation and marginalisation of local economies and small food producers. He then introduced the concept of addressing climate change and developing community resilience through a campaign on biodiversity-based ecological agriculture and food. The campaign has the following goals: 1) To understand, raise awareness and mobilise people on the problems and impacts of climate change from the food and agriculture perspective; and 2) To promote and mainstream local, biodiversity-based ecological food production systems. The campaign will use two main strategies: 1) exposing the role of corporate agriculture in enhancing climate change; and 2) underlining the value of local, biodiversity-based ecological agriculture in addressing the problem.

He said that the proposed campaign sees the convergence of BEA, local food production and local food consumption as responses to climate change; strengthening the local economy that it may not be affected by artificial food crises; addressing health and nutrition concerns; and contributing less carbon emissions and pollution. It is a three-year campaign, beginning sometime next year, in more than a dozen countries.

The campaign includes a scope of activities at the local and national levels: community mobilisation and alliance building; capacity sharing and resilience building workshops; case studies documentations of farmer practices for learning in climate change situations; alliance-building

between local food producers and consumers; and policy advocacy on climate change and biodiversity-based local, ecological agriculture. Meanwhile, the scope of activities at the regional and international levels include: research, campaign literature and materials (printed and audio-visual), resource handbooks, etc.; inclusion in regional and international discourse of the impact of corporate agriculture on climate change, and the role of biodiversity-based ecological and local food production systems in addressing climate change problems and building people's resilience; policy advocacy and interventions in FAO, ASEAN, etc.; and networking with IFOAM, Slow Food Movement, etc. on climate change and local food production systems.

Biju said that there are currently no funds for this campaign although PAN AP is trying to explore sources. He said that many of us are already doing these things, but there is a need to consolidate and strengthen initiatives.

3.4 Open Forum

Mohammad Asim agreed that we are partly doing these activities, but now is the time to focus on climate change separately as a whole issue.

3.5 Unity Statement

The draft unity statement for the conference was presented to the plenary. It was then subjected to discussion and amendments. The following is the final unity statement as adopted by the participants:

We, 113 participants from 22 countries, representing peasants, small farmers, agricultural workers, women, indigenous peoples, fisherfolk organisations, and health, environmental and consumers CSOs met at the Conference on Confronting the Food Crisis and Climate Change from 27-29 September, 2009 in Penang, Malaysia.

We met in the midst of the worst global recession of the century and a global financial crisis. This is the worst in the cycle of crises of monopoly capitalism, now manifesting in the collapse

of global financial institutions and speculative international markets. Another consequence of monopoly capitalism is the global food crisis which is compounded by the climate crisis. With the collapse of food self-sufficiency due to globalisation, the massive speculation in the global commodities market and the expansion of agrofuel policies have resulted in spiraling food prices and hence, the food crisis.

The climate crisis has been caused by unprecedented unsustainable industrial development, chemical intensive agriculture and over-production under monopoly capitalism mainly in the developed countries in the last 200 years and intensified in the last 3 decades. Both the food and climate crises are exacerbated by imperialist globalisation, a process to ensure the expansion of markets for excess goods and capital to secure super profits. The over-consumption and unsustainable lifestyles of affluent societies have further contributed to the crises.

In food and agriculture, the globalisation process has intensified the expansion of corporate monopoly control over the food chain from production to marketing and the exploitation of rural labour, natural resources and biodiversity. It has further marginalised and impoverished indigenous peoples, women, Dalits, small and marginal farmers, and fishers. Corporate monopoly of agriculture through the collusion of landlords, autocratic and corrupt governments, and other elites has caused great misery for peasants and other rural people. Governments have reneged on their responsibility to uphold the rights and welfare of the people.

The food and climate crises indicate the failure of the FAO, CGIAR, IFIs and national governments in addressing hunger and perpetuating the paradigm of toxic, unsustainable growth for profit. The call by G8 countries for a new global governance on food and agriculture in response to the food crisis is a renewed offensive that will only further entrench corporate control over food and agricultural production. Subsequently, the current initiative for the World Summit on Food Security in

Rome in November 2009 drives the same agenda of corporate agriculture. At the World Food Summit in 1996, the corporate model of agriculture was heralded as the solution to end world hunger. Instead, this model of agriculture has brought us the food crisis and increased hunger for our people.

Corporate farming systems such as plantations, intensive aquaculture and livestock systems, floriculture, contract farming and now, agrofuel production, perpetuate the over-exploitation and pollution of lands, forests, seeds, waters, marine resources and other natural resources that have been the sources of livelihood for small food producers. Moreover, the resultant loss of biodiversity and the diminishing number of crop varieties grown worldwide are major concerns for small producers who depend on such biodiversity for their survival. The introduction and forced expansion of genetically engineered crops (GE) is increasingly threatening the agrobiodiversity in the fields and, reports of health impacts and environmental contamination by GE crops are cause for grave concern. Hazardous pesticides and chemicals also harm human health and the environment.

Moreover, climate change adversely impacts food production, deepens the food crisis and exacerbates rural poverty, joblessness and misery, as people face crop losses through droughts, floods and climatic disasters. In the meantime, corporations including agrochemical and agribusiness companies are continuing their unsustainable form of production through "carbon trading" schemes. Worse, they have seized the opportunity to amass more profits with the use of public funds in so-called carbon emissions reduction technologies and projects. Adaptation and mitigation technologies are not the final solutions to the climate crisis. The final solution is through people-oriented ecological development. This should be the target for adaptation funding through mechanisms that are directly channelled to communities rather than through the World Bank and its corporate-oriented technologies. This will meet the principle of compensation for centuries of ecological debt owed by the North to the South.

In the face of the greater challenges posed by the food crisis and climate change, the people now have to struggle even more to confront oppressive structures and institutions.

As we, women, face the greatest burden from calamities, war, crises and displacement, we must struggle harder against patriarchy, fundamentalism and extremism, and endeavour for full participation and involvement.

As we, peasants, lose our livelihood and land, and are forcibly exiled from our communities, we have to fight much harder against the onslaught of corporate land grabbing and for our rights.

As we, agricultural workers, continue to slave in pesticide-drenched corporate farms and plantations, we need to struggle even more for our rights, jobs, lives and livelihoods.

As we, the fisher people, are further displaced by corporate fishing and intensive industrial aquaculture as well as corporate coastal and offshore development projects, we have to struggle even more to conserve, gain access, manage and control marine and aquatic resources as well as fishing implements.

As we, indigenous peoples, lose our ancestral domains due to land grabbing and corporate exploitation, we have to defend our indigenous knowledge, ancestral history and legends, culture and our very lives.

As we, the working people as consumers, deprived of nutritious, safe, adequate, culturally appropriate food and pushed to unnatural and unsustainable lifestyles, we must strive even more to tackle the negative effects of all crises and, exert our right to food and our responsibilities as conscious, ethical and ecological consumers.

We will be resolute in our struggle to put people and the planet first over profits. We will work together to regenerate and restore nature and society.

We have gathered now to further strengthen and consolidate our movements to advance food sovereignty, gender justice and climate justice. We will work with full dedication and commitment to:

- 1) Fully resist corporate monopoly control over food and agriculture;*
- 2) Advocate for the establishment of compensatory funds to support communities' capacity to address the impact of climate change;*
- 3) Advance genuine agrarian, fisheries, forestry and pastoral reforms that ensure gender justice and the rights of women to land and productive resources;*
- 4) Assert food self-sufficiency in our societies and stop land use conversions;*
- 5) Advance the rights of indigenous peoples over ancestral land and domains as well as protect and uphold indigenous knowledge and wisdom as the basis of ecological agriculture and sustainable development;*
- 6) Defend the rights of marginalised communities, ethnic minorities and Dalits.*
- 7) Stop the killings of and violence against peasants, agricultural workers, fisherfolk and indigenous peoples struggling for their peoples' rights;*
- 8) Ensure market access for the poor and marginalised people, and fair price for their harvests;*
- 9) Promote local knowledge particularly nurturing values and expand biodiversity-based ecological food production as the foundation for food self-sufficiency;*
- 10) Promote and support community-based seed and grain conservation systems;*
- 11) Build stronger links between consumers and small food producers to promote the production and consumption*

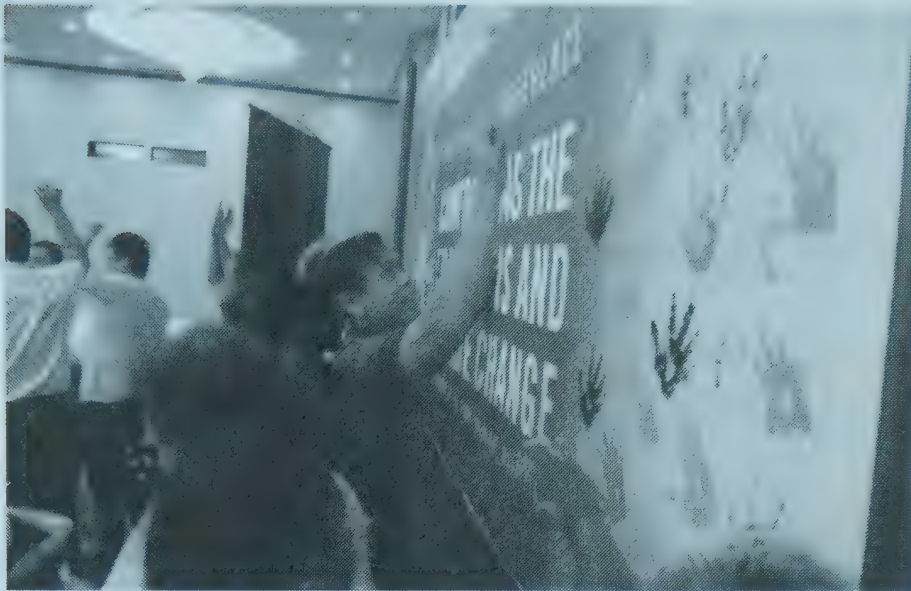
of affordable, local, ecologically produced and safe food, and to work towards ethical consumption and sustainable lifestyles;

- 12) Protect the rights and well-being of agricultural workers and their communities, and ensure fair wages for them;*
- 13) Promote pro-people, farmer-led research technologies and institutions;*
- 14) Resist imperialist globalisation, fundamentalism, feudalism, patriarchy, militarisation and autocratic and corrupt governments, and end racial, caste and all other forms of discrimination.*
- 15) Endorse the People's Protocol on Climate Change which provides the framework of our demands for climate justice based on the principles of social justice, sovereignty, respect for the environment, gender justice, and responsibility, and call for an economic system that is sovereign, socially just, democratic and ecologically sustainable.*

We claim our right and the right of all excluded and marginalised people to restore and recover the regenerative ability of nature by reorienting our methods of production, consumption and marketing. We deviate from the present destructive processes of the greedy exploitation of humans and nature to ensure the long-term survival of all life forms. We endeavour to heal the earth.

We call for the people's right to food and uphold the People's Convention on Food Sovereignty as the sustainable framework for food production and distribution, and for national and international trade and investment policies.*

**as adopted during the People's Convention on Food Sovereignty held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 27 November, 2004*



Participants leaving their palm print on the banner as a symbolic gesture of their obligation to assert peoples' rights.

3.6 Closing Ceremony

3.6.1 Closing Remarks

Sarojeni Rengam

Saro thanked everyone for making the conference a big success and for their participation. She thanked the staff of PAN AP, particularly Voltaire and Rosmah, who put a lot of work to make the event a success.

3.6.2 Solidarity Poem

Dr. Romeo Quijano

President, PAN Philippines

Romy delivered a poem entitled “*Get Out Into the Storm, My Friend*”, which was dedicated to the typhoon victims in the Philippines:

*Get out into the storm, my friend
And feel the fury of climate change
Look into the clouds,
And see the darkness of worsening greed
Get drenched in the rain,
And feel the coldness of apathy
Wade into the floods,
And hear the gasp of a drowning child!*

*Get out of your comfort zone, my friend,
Perhaps you'll see dehumanising poverty
Meet the people displaced, perhaps you'll see vulnerability
Touch their gaunt skins,
Perhaps you'll feel the rigors of suffering
And look into their eyes,
Perhaps you'll see injustice glaring!*

*But then, my friend,
When you see the strike of lightning,
That would be the spark of awakening
When you see the stretch of rain falling,
That would be hope out there pouring
When you see floodwaters coming,
That would be the mass movement rushing
And when you hear the thunder rolling,
That, my friend is the people's fight roaring!*



A group picture of the conference participants

Pesticide Action Network

PAN is an international coalition of citizens' groups and individuals that oppose the misuse of pesticides and support reliance on safe, sustainable pest control methods. Established in 1982, PAN currently links over 600 organizations in some 90 countries, coordinated by five Regional Centres. For more information, contact the PAN Regional Centre nearest to you.

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Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP) is one of the five regional centres of PAN, a global network dedicated to eliminating the harm caused to humans and the environment by pesticides and promoting biodiversity-based ecological agriculture.

PAN AP's vision is a society that is truly democratic, equal, just, and culturally diverse; based on the principles of food sovereignty, gender justice and environmental sustainability. It has developed strong partnerships with peasants, agricultural workers and rural women movements in the Asia Pacific region and guided by the strong leadership of these grassroots groups, has grown into a reputable advocacy network with a firm Asia perspective.

PAN AP's mission lies in strengthening people's movements to advance and assert food sovereignty, biodiversity-based ecological agriculture, and the empowerment of rural women; protect people and the environment from highly hazardous pesticides; defend the rice heritage of Asia; and resist the threats of corporate agriculture and neo-liberal globalisation.

Currently, PAN AP comprises 10 network partner organisations in the Asia Pacific region and links with about 400 other CSOs and grassroots organisations regionally and globally.

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